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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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TO KEEP ESSENTIAL SERVICES OPEN

Governor proposes tax hike

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is proposing that the Legislature implement a tax hike to keep essential government services in operation.

Palacios

Recently, Palacios wrote to all branches of government stating that the CNMI saw a revenue shortfall of about $3 million for fiscal year 2024.

Palacios, in his letter, proposed the need for a tax hike to help in generating more revenue for the CNMI.

When asked about this, Palacios

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CONGRATULATIONS
After months of rigorous training, the 16 new Division of Customs and Biosecurity officers from the 10th Cycle Academy received their badges and their Basic Law Enforcement Certificate of Completion Customs Biosecurity Track at their graduation ceremony on Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Hibiscus Hall. The academy was coordinated in partnership with the Northern Marianas College. The officers received training in multiple subject areas that included Constitutional Law, Report Writing for Law Enforcement, Officer Survival Skills, Transportation and Border Security, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Firearms Safety.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ON PROPOSED MAÑAGAHA USE AMENDMENTS

AG: People should read proposed regs more carefully

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Manibusan

Attorney General Edward Manibusan is urging marine operators to thoroughly review Department of Public Land's proposed amendments to the rule and regulations for commercial use of

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Staffler

Ind-Dems form coalition

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Democratic Party and independents have formed a coalition which only continues to grow stronger.

With the 2024 general elections just right

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Kilili files bill to help *man'amkos* get access to work-based programs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced last week a legislation that would provide senior citizens or *man'amkos* in the

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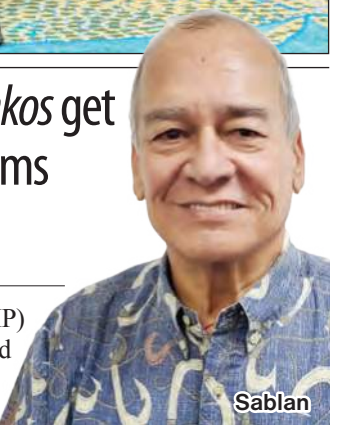
Sablan

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The Rota Small Business Development Center is excited to announce an upcoming training session led by a Rota native and experienced travel influencer. Titled "Social Media Mastery-Boost Your Business Online."
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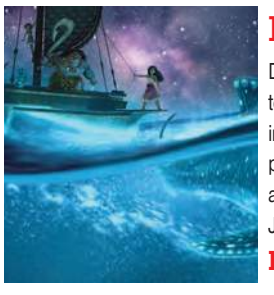
WORLD
The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday, a day after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians.
PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE
Disney teased upcoming its movies and television series including "Moana 2" in a rousing showcase featuring sneak peaks, live performances and surprise appearances from actors including Dwayne Johnson, Zoe Saldaña and Jude Law.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

TES' Jenina Manglona is Presidential Awards for Excellence finalist

Tinian Elementary School third grade teacher Jenina Manglona was named recently as the CNMI's state-level awardee for the prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program.

The awards are considered the top honors presented by the U.S. government to K-12 teachers in the area of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and presented by the White House and the National Science Foundation.

Manglona is now one of the nation's finalists for this highest award for STEM teachers. According to the National Science Foundation, each year up to 110 outstanding educators from across the United States "are recognized by the White House for their passion, dedication, and impact in the classroom."

In the CNMI, the Public School System has been spearheading the award through the Office of Curriculum and Instruction-Science Program. This is led by program director Asapmar Ogumoro.

PSS

Tinian Elementary School educator Jenina Manglona, fourth left, joined by her family, is honored by the Public School System's Office of Curriculum and Instruction-Science Program as this year's CNMI winner of the prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Senior director Jackie Quitugua, program director Asapam Ogumoro. and Tinian Elementary School principal Lou Connie Manglona and vice principal April Manglona presented the award.

Manglona's recognition has already been forwarded to the national selection committee, where she will have the chance to be celebrated as a national awardee. She will join the ranks of exceptional educators throughout the 50 states and territories.

The NMI-PSS state-level winner, Manglona, honors her mother for inspiring her to be an educator.

"My mother inspired me to become an educator. She was a high school biology teacher for two decades when she was alive. She instilled in me a love of science by constantly sharing her enthusiasm for the subject through captivating stories about the wonders of the human body or fascinating discussions about the intricate balance in nature; she made science come alive for me. I witnessed her dedication to teaching and her ability to inspire her students' curiosity. That influenced my appreciation for science and motivated me to pursue a career in education,: she said.

"Although I took a different career path at first, I eventually found my way to become an educator myself. She inspired me because I saw how her former students appreciated her as a teacher. When I talked to some of her students, they told me she was their favorite teacher. This motivated me to strive to be as impactful as she was when I became a teacher," she added.

Manglona also extended her recognition to her Tinian public school community, adding that it was the collective support and partnership as one Tinian school community that allowed her to succeed in her classroom teaching.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my principal, who recommended me for this award and recognized my potential. Her belief in me and the numerous training opportunities she has provided have been instrumental in my growth and development as a teacher. I am also deeply thankful to my family for their unwavering support and understanding of my busy schedule. Their encouragement has been a cornerstone of my journey."

She added, "I want to acknowledge my vice principal and my previous and current colleagues for their invaluable support. I have learned from them and will continue to grow through our shared experiences. To the parents of my current and former students, thank you for your trust and collaboration. Together, we are helping our students become independent and productive learners."

The Office of Instruction and Curriculum-Science Program praised the Tinian educator's success.

"This is a moment of immense pride for our community and a testament to the transformative impact Mrs. Manglona has on her students," the program said. "We had the privilege of (knowing and working with) Mrs. Manglona, and we are honored to know more of her inspirational journey and unwavering commitment to education." ***(PR)***

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Call for nominations for 2024 Governor's Humanities awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is inviting the general public to nominate deserving individuals or organizations for a 2024 Governor's Humanities Award.

Each year, the council works in collaboration with the Office of the Governor to honor and recognize individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions to the humanities in the CNMI community.

Nominations should be limited to contributions in one or more of the following categories:

- Research and publication in the humanities
- Outstanding humanities teacher (in or out of the classroom setting)
- Preservation of CNMI history
- Preservation of traditional cultural practices
- Lifetime achievement in the humanities

Nominations can be submitted by scanning the QR code below. To download a copy of the PDF version of the nomination form visit the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's website at http://nmhcouncil.org/gha.

Scan to access the 2024 Governor's Humanities Award nomination form.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Sept. 23, 2024. Awardees will be recognized in October during Humanities Month.

The humanities include the study and interpretation of language; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the human environment with particular attention to our diverse heritage, traditions, and history. ***(PR)***

Early Intervention Program's ICC meeting on Aug. 15

The CNMI Public School System's Early Intervention Program's Interagency Coordinating Council will have a meeting thus Thursday, Aug. 15, from 9am to 11am via teleconference (Zoom).

Meeting link and details will be provided upon request if not sent. You may contact the Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841 for more information. ***(PR)***

Labor defines 'good faith effort' to hire local workers

Labor business outreach: Reviewing annual Workforce Plan requirement

The CNMI Department of Labor reaffirms the enforcement of the annual Workforce Plan requirement for all businesses under Title 80 § 80-20.1-510, emphasizing the critical goal of achieving a 30% workforce participation requirement of citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and CNMI permanent residents in every business establishment. This requirement is measured through the Census of Employment, a quarterly submission that documents workforce composition.

The Workforce Plan is the plan business owners are required to submit annually that details how they will replace specific positions currently held by nonimmigrant aliens with qualified citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents. Businesses that do not employ foreign workers are exempt from submitting a Workforce Plan.

Businesses that have consistently complied with the workforce participation requirement for the previous two years can apply for an exemption. This exemption can be obtained by providing adequate documentation and submitting a certification request form. The CNMI DOL is finalizing a standardized form for this process, which is expected to be available by September 2024.

The CNMI DOL evaluates the "good faith effort" of businesses in their Workforce Plan submissions. It has been observed that many plans are overly generic, merely stating intentions such as "Within 1-6 months prior to CW1 expiration, we will post JVA at CNMI DOL website" or even less detailed, such as "JVA six months prior to expiration." Such plans fail to demonstrate a substantive effort toward achieving the workforce participation objective and do not demonstrate a "good faith effort" in the eyes of the department.

A key question posed to the CNMI by USDOL officials is, "What is the CNMI's long-term strategy for replacing foreign workers with U.S. workers?" Simply posting a Job Vacancy Announcement six months before a foreign worker's visa expiration is not a sufficient long-term strategy. The CNMI DOL urges businesses to develop comprehensive Workforce Plans that outline a clear and actionable strategy for workforce localization.

The CNMI DOL strongly encourages businesses to engage with the Division of Employment Services to participate in their applicant referral process. Applicants who are referred by the DES are given a QR code for employers to scan and provide feedback on the interview and in general. This feedback will be used to establish training and coaching plans for DOL consumers. The department is making efforts to increase referral services and plan outreach and training opportunities to consumers in an effort to improve their chances at being hired, especially for entry level positions.

Another division that provides a variety of training and certification opportunities is the Workforce Investment Agency. Through the Workforce, Opportunity, and Innovation Act Title 1 programs, WIA can significantly aid businesses in transitioning their workforce by taking the risk out of investing in a new employee. There are several different programs available to businesses that can be tailored for their specific needs. From providing up to 100% wages for trainees and interns, to 50% reimbursement of wages to incumbent workers who are registered apprentices, to also covering personal protective equipment costs, other supportive services, as well as funding for training courses from a variety of educational and training providers. The beauty of WIA programs are that they are not one size fits all, rather, they can be tailored to the needs of the business.

Participation in these programs is a critical component of demonstrating a good faith effort to meet workforce participation goals. Participation in these programs is something the CNMI DOL wants to see more of in the Workforce Plans, especially in the highest need industries of Construction, installation, maintenance and repair. Through this, the CNMI DOL encourages all businesses to take a proactive role in developing a skilled and independent local workforce.

This effort is vital for the economic stability and growth of the Commonwealth. To learn more about WIA programs and other workforce development opportunities, visit the CNMI Labor website at labor.cnmi.gov. ***(PR)***

The CNMI Department of Labor is reminding the local business community of the definition and expectations of a "good faith effort" to hire U.S. citizens and U.S. eligible workers, as stipulated under § 80-20.1-235 Job Referral "(f) Good Faith Effort to Hire."

This clarification aims to ensure that employers are genuinely prioritizing the hiring of citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents for job vacancies in the CNMI.

Employers must make a good faith effort to hire local workers, even if the department's referral service is unsuccessful in finding qualified applicants. This includes interviewing all U.S. citizen applicants who apply through the DOL Job Vacancy Announcement job board system.

Interviews with U.S. eligible applicants must be documented in the JVA declaration which is required to be submitted 14 days after the JVA closes if a U.S. citizen is not hired. Employers must provide legitimate reasons for not hiring these applicants.

What constitutes a good faith effort? One is a willingness to train. A good faith effort includes hiring individuals who may not yet have the necessary skills but are willing to be trained for entry-level positions. Another example is ensuring you have a flexible interview schedule.

Employers should offer interview times that accommodate the applicant's schedule rather than demanding immediate availability. This practice ensures fairness and respect for the applicant's circumstances. A big one is in not hiring a foreign worker for entry-level positions. Posting JVAs for entry-level positions without requesting a foreign labor certification demonstrates a commitment to hiring local workers. It is widely recognized that the process is flawed when businesses seek foreign labor certifications for roles that could be filled by U.S. eligible workers.

The biggest example of good faith effort is a business' participation in DOL programs. Participating in the annual job fairs is one way. Actively engaging in Workforce Investment Agency's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title 1 programs is another way to show a strong commitment to investing in the local workforce. WIA programs in particular offer training and certifications that upskill workers, benefiting both businesses and the community.

Demonstrating a good faith effort includes accurately reporting in the quarterly Census of Employment. This should reflect the ratio of U.S. workers increasing due to participation in training programs. Additionally, documenting the separation or resignation of local workers within the quarter shows transparency and genuine effort.

The benefits of committing to a good faith effort are measurable. Participating in Workforce Skill development programs like WIA's provide substantial returns on investment by helping businesses take out the risk by providing financial support and overall, improve their workforce's skills and qualifications through training and certification. Not to mention the effect on the islands' economic growth. While not all positions, especially highly skilled ones, can be filled locally, investing in the local workforce through training and development benefits the entire economy.

For more information on making a good faith effort to hire local workers or to participate in WIA programs, businesses can contact the WIA office at (670) 488-1720/2312/2324, email cnmiwioa@dol.gov.mp, or visit Building No. 1353 in Capitol Hill. ***(PR)***

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Construction workers work on the road improvement project in Beach Road in Susupe.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-021	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position) *Re-Announcement*	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $65,000.00 Per annum	August 13, 2024	Until Filled

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRSFRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-24

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning July 12, 2024, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

July 12, 2024
Date

GOVERNOR

From page 1

said although tax hikes are generally not supported, it might be exactly what the CNMI needs to keep essential government services open.

"Nobody supports tax hikes. We haven't had any adjustments in our tax rates for 30-40 years. It's a tricky thing, it's very sensitive because no matter what it is, nobody wants to see a tax hike. But we need to balance the services that needs to be provided. Now, if revenue is not there, we need to cut services and right now I believe we are at the level with essential services where we can't afford to cut anymore so we have to make those different types of adjustments," he said.

Palacios said he can only propose the idea, but it must go through the legislative process.

"The proposal is to increase the revenue through changing the [tax] rates. I can only propose that, but it needs to go through the legislative process. If that doesn't go through, I have to make other adjustments accordingly," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Department of Finance's third quarter report has reflected an over $3-million revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2024 which will result in a reduced budget across the board for all government entities.

In a letter to Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Palacios stated that due to Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita's third quarter report (which indicated a $3.4-million revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year), there will be a budget reduction across the board for the current fiscal year.

Specifically, in her quarterly report to the Legislature last week, Norita said the cumulative revenue forecast for the first three quarters of the year was $124 million, but the actual collection was only $120.5 million.

The third quarter of the fiscal is from April 1 to June 30, 2024 and the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2024.

"Although collections in the remaining months of the fiscal year may offset these shortfalls, it would be prudent to initiate a conservative reduction in the budget authority to mitigate the anticipated fiscal year-end deficit," said Palacios.

In his letter, Palacios said pursuant to 1 CMC Section 7604©(4) (or the Planning and Budgeting Act), he is mandating an immediate proportionate reduction in the allotment authority of all branches, offices, departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth which are subject to appropriations.

"The effect of this reduction will be reflected in the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year," he said.

The Office of Management and Budget has revised the remaining budget allotments from August to September 2024, amounting to $16.6 million.

"The proportionate reduction will result in a total budgetary decrease of over $2.3 million or 2.15%. This cut will offset the third quarter lapses of over $1.2 million as of June 30, 2024, as reported by Finance," he said.

Palacios said this reduced budget allocation will have an impact on government operations and services.

"However, the current financial condition of the CNMI requires that we quickly realign government spending with available resources. To meet this challenge, it is imperative that agencies and activities examine their operations and identify areas where they may be reduced or eliminated altogether, while we maintain the reduced work week at 70 hours," he said.

That's when Palacios first suggested to lawmakers to pass tax-hike measures.

"This administration is committed to collaborating with the Legislature to increase government revenue and avoid further fiscal challenges. We must work together to enact measures that will both protect the livelihoods of our government employees as well as the critical services upon which our entire community depends," Palacios said.

PEOPLE

From page 1

Mañagaha Island.

For the past few weeks, local marine operators have vocally expressed their opposition to DPL's proposed amendments to the current rule and regulations governing the commercial use of Mañagaha.

Marine operators believe that the proposed amendments only benefits master concessionaire Marianas Global Inc. and does not bode well for local doing business on Mañagaha.

However, in an interview with Manibusan, he said the proposed amendments also accommodate local marine operators and urges them to read the proposed changes thoroughly.

"People should read [the proposed amendments] carefully because basically we're just trying to ensure that [Marianas Global] is given the opportunity to do their business as a concessionaire while also accommodating the rest of the marine operators," he said.

Nevertheless, Manibusan said marine operators should continue to submit their comments to DPL as the amendments will not be implemented without thorough review of public comments.

"I think there is ample time for comments and should comments come out in favor or there's an issue, the proposed regulations can always be amended to make accommodations. Right now, this is still in the comment period," he said.

"I know there's a lot of emotional issues because [marine operators] believe that their businesses will be taken away. I think, as we go through the process and review the comments, we will be able to consider the comments. Again, these are just proposed regulations and will not be implemented until all comments are reviewed thoroughly," Manibusan added.

According to a statement from DPL's David Sablan last week, DPL has proposed to amend the Commercial Use of Mañagaha Island Rules and Regulations pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Specifically, the proposed amendments would restrict the consumption of outside food and beverages in the Exclusive Concession Area; restrict certain personal floatation devices in the Designated Swimming Zone; and further define the type of "commercial activity" that may be provided by the main concessionaire and a limited number of sub-concessionaires mutually agreed by DPL and the concessionaire.

"DPL's Commercial Use of Mañagaha Island Rules and Regulations currently provide that all commercial activity, including conveniences such as food, beverages, recreational equipment, and the like, shall only be provided by the main concessionaire and a limited number of sub-concessionaires, and allow outside food and beverages brought in by visitors for personal consumption. In addition, the regulations do not currently address the use of personal floatation devices. However, Section 16(A) of the Mañagaha Island Master Concession Operator Agreement requires the concessionaire to indemnify and hold harmless DPL for any injuries or losses which occur in the Exclusive Concession Area or which arise out of or in connection with any activities under the agreement, including the provision of lifeguard services. Revising the regulations to restrict outside food and beverages in the ECA and to restrict personal floatation devices used in the Designated Swimming Zone to those provided by the concessionaire will allow the concessionaire to exercise greater control over activities occurring in the ECA and for which the concessionaire is liable," said Sablan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KILILI

From page 1

CNMI more access to work-based training programs.

Sablan also disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that last Wednesday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios invited him to attend a briefing from United States military officials in which the U.S. Department of Defense provided an overview of military projects and activities taking place in Marianas.

The delegate also congratulated the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Works for being awarded a total of $824,257 in fiscal year 2024 Maintenance Assistant Program grant funding from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Sablan's bill, H.R. 9318, seeks to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 so that the Marianas receives three times the funding the CNMI currently receives for this training.

The legislation would make available to the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands additional funds for community service senior opportunities.

Sablan's goal is to help *man'amkos*, who want to keep working and earning, learn new skills.

"As a senior myself, I know I take great satisfaction in having meaningful work and contributing in that way to our community," said the delegate in his *e-kilili* newsletter.

The legislation was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce.

On the briefing from U.S. military partners, Sablan underscored the need for the local government officials and stakeholders to be informed and have their questions answered fully to ensure the military buildup in the Marianas is beneficial for all parties.

The quarterly stakeholders briefing on U.S. military projects in the CNMI was held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Among the military officials present were Joint Task Force Micronesia Commander Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Brent DeVore, and Guam Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Christopher K Faurot.

Regarding the $824,257 MAP projects, Sablan said $345,295 was awarded to the DOC for its commercial kitchen renovation and rehabilitation project to purchase updated equipment and kitchen appliances for the in-house food service program.

He said DPW was $286,771 to acquire a dump truck and $192,191 to purchase a backhoe and compactor.

DPW will use the dump truck for road maintenance and transportation of vegetation debris, coral aggregate washout, and garbage collection for the Roadways and Stormwater Maintenance Project.

DPW will utilize the backhoe and compactor to assist with military funeral burials and other road projects for the CNMI Veterans Cemetery Project.'

The $824,257 MAP projects for the CNMI are part of the $4.5 million MAP grant funding in FY 2024 that Department of the Interior's assistant secretary Carmen G. Cantor announced last week that will go towards supporting programs and projects benefitting the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Freely Associated States—Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau.

COALITION

From page 1

around the corner, you'd think that political parties would be gearing up to go head-to-head but not in the CNMI. Just a few months away from election season, the CNMI Democrats and independents have come together to support one another and continue to strengthen their new formed coalition when they filed their candidacies together last week.

Democratic DNC delegate Leila Staffler said the joint candidacy filing was very energetic and reinvigorating.

"The Democratic Party and the independent partners maintain their commitment to accountability and raising the integrity of the government. I believe 'IN Dem.' I urge the rest of the CNMI to 'Vote Dem back IN,' in November," she said.

Rep. Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho (D-Saipan) said he thanks both political parties for coming out last week to show their support as he and others filed their candidacies.

"[Last Tuesday], in the presence of families, friends, and supporters, my fellow Democrats and I, along with the independent coalition, officially filed our candidacy nominating petitions in hopes of serving the people of the Marianas. We all know and feel the effects of our current economic condition however, I firmly believe we've been fiscally responsible and transparent in our government operations with budgeting and trimming unnecessary spending. Moreover, I have tried my very best to introduce sensible legislation for a more responsible and accountable government while balancing community projects and events to which I've dedicated most of my office resources towards. It is my sincere desire to continue working collaboratively with my colleagues and the administration to navigate our Commonwealth through these trying times and I ask the good people of precinct one, once again, to put their trust and confidence in me and our team to continue representing their interest in their house. I thank all the candidates for their willingness to serve our people and wish them well this election." he said

U.S. delegate candidate Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), for his part, said he is humbled and moved by the turnout and support he and his party has received when the independent and Democratic coalition filed for their respective candidacies.

"These are challenging times for us, and we must continue to focus on rebuilding our economy. We must continue to work with our leaders in Guam to address our regional issues. Together we have a stronger voice as one Marianas" he said.

Saipan candidate for Senate, Manny Tenorio Castro, expressed his gratitude for the support shown by both parties.

"Thank you, *Ghilisou, yan un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'asi* to our fellow coalition candidates, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), [Saipan] Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho, and most especially our families and supporters for your participation at our petition submission," he said.

"As President Abraham Lincoln wisely said, 'the best way to predict the future is to create it.' Our community holds immense power to shape the tomorrow we desire. Let's continue to harness that power and build a brighter future for us all. We must unite in our endeavor to advance our Commonwealth and its people," he added.

Chamber recognizes outsanding scholars during awards ceremony

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted its Annual Scholarship Awarding Ceremony during its August general membership meeting last week at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Room. The scholarship program, which has been a cornerstone of the Chamber's community initiatives since 2008, is funded by the generous contributions of Chamber members through the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

This year, five exceptional individuals were honored with scholarships for their academic achievements and dedication to their studies:

■ Reine Aldan received the Pellegrino Vocational Award. Aldan is pursuing studies in Baking and Pastry at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

■ Catherine Barrozo received the Chamber Education Award. Barrozo is a triple major, studying for an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts, an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management at the Northern Marianas College.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce board secretary Ron Smith, director Alex Sablan, scholarship recipient Reine Aldan, president Joe Guerrero, scholarship recipient Catherine Barozzo, director Brad Ruszala, vice president Joshua Wise, scholarship recipient Ayesha Mustansar, Chamber EdWork Committee chair Mercilynn Palec, scholarship recipient Crystal Seidler, EdWork Committee member Benjamin Babauta, scholarship recipient Bonnie Gio Sagana, EdWork Committee member Plumeria Castro-Aldan, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Northern Marianas Technical Institute CEO Jodina Attao.

■ Ayesha Mustansar received the Chamber Education Award. Mustansar is majoring in an Associate of Science in Nursing at the Northern Marianas College.

■ Bonnie Gio Sagana received the Chamber Education Award. Sagana is majoring in Pre-Education, Rehabilitation & Human Services, Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Social Work, and an Associate of Science in Nursing at the Northern Marianas College.

■ Crystal Seidler received the Chamber Education Award. Seidler is majoring in Associate of Arts in Business, Business Administration: Business Management emphasis, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management at the Northern Marianas College.

"It is a great honor to be able to celebrate and assist our youth through our annual scholarship program in achieving their academic goals. We look forward to celebrating and assisting more scholars in the years to come," said Chamber executive director Kimberly C. Camacho.

Mercilynn Palec, chair of the Education and Workforce Development Committee, expressed her gratitude, saying, "On behalf of the Education and Workforce Development Committee, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Chamber membership for making it possible to provide these scholarships to our students. This program is a direct result of your generous contributions during our Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, your participation in our Professional Development Trainings, and your support of other Chamber initiatives. During the ceremony, we witness the Chamber's ongoing commitment to giving back to our community and the profound impact it has on these five individuals, and by extension, their families. I am honored to sit on the scholarship panel alongside Benjamin Babauta, Marketing Manager for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute & Plumeria Aldan Castro of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The Chamber remains dedicated to fostering educational and professional development opportunities for the community. Through continued support and collaboration, the Chamber aims to empower more students in their academic pursuits, ensuring a brighter future for the CNMI.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). ***(PR)***

Effort to ID maritime heritage in waters off Marianas starts

A team of researchers from East Carolina University have entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to begin identification of maritime heritage in the waters off the Mariana Islands. The project, funded by BOEM, will incorporate a proactive and holistic process that involves working with the Northern Mariana Islands communities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to better understand maritime heritage of importance to Chamorro and Carolinian communities, and to develop best practices guidance for engagement in the Federal review process for potential offshore renewable energy-related projects. The effort builds upon other successful community engagement programs in Hawai'i and with U.S. west coast Tribal Nations and will continue through 2027.

» Meeting at Carolinian Affairs Office pavilion today

Maritime heritage can be both tangible and intangible, including shipwrecks, canoe landings or navigation routes, fish traps, places related to origin stories, traditional fishing and gathering places, and other heritage related directly to Chamorro and Carolinian connections to the sea. The project will support and uplift existing maritime heritage programs like canoe building and navigation practices and includes financial support for existing educational programming to continue the tradition of passing knowledge to future generations.

The team is led by Dr. Jennifer McKinnon who has collaborated with community in Saipan for over 15 years and helped the Historic Preservation Office develop the WWII Maritime Heritage Trail on sites related to the battle for Saipan and indigenous communities liaison and marine archaeologist, Dave Ball, who led the BOEM Pacific Region's efforts to develop guidance documents and best practices for engagement with the Native Hawaiian Community and west coast Tribal Nations. The team will be working with local collaborators from organizations including Indigenous Affairs Office, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Pacific Development Inc., among others.

There will be a meeting at Carolinian Affairs Office pavilion today, Aug. 13 from 4pm to 6pm. and all are welcome. This will be an opportunity for the team to share information about the project and gather interest in participation. For more information or to become involved in the project, email mckinnonje@ecu.edu. ***(PR)***

GCC extends office hours to accommodate students, new students

Guam Community College offices have extended office hours starting, Monday, Aug. 5 through Friday, August 16, to accommodate registering new and returning students for the Fall 2024 semester.

The following departments and services will open daily, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 6pm through Aug. 16:

■ Admissions & Registration (Building 2000)

■ Adult Basic Education (Building 6000, second floor)

■ Cashier (Building 2000)

■ Financial Aid (Building 2000)

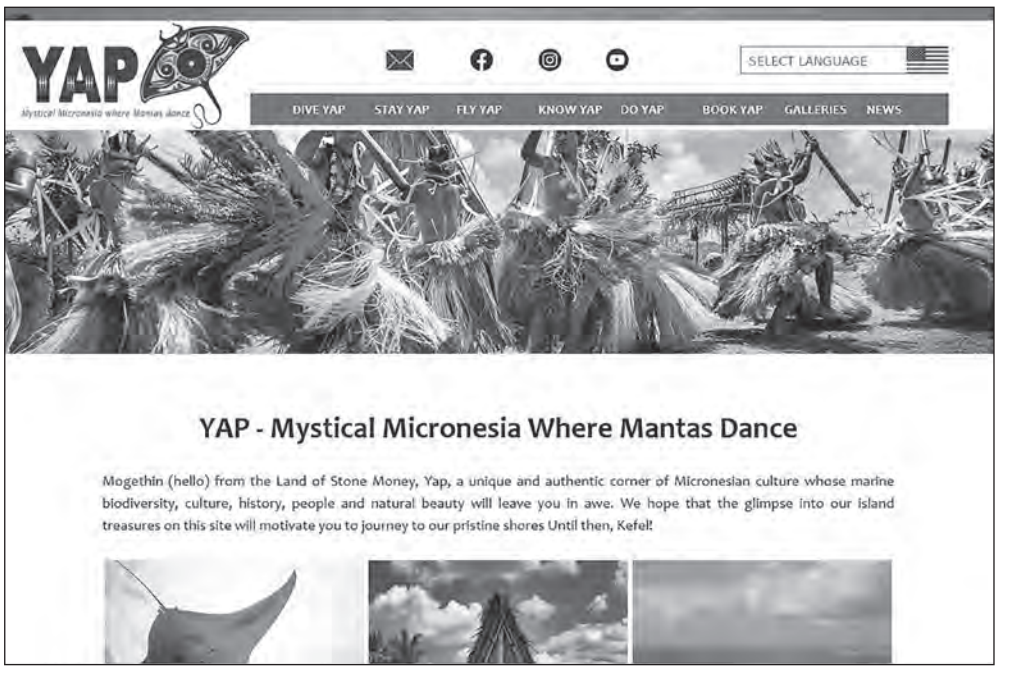
■ Health Center (Building 5000 for required health clearance)

■ Student Support Services (Building C to process student identification cards)

The Fall semester starts on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, however students looking to register may still do so until 6pm, Friday, Aug. 16.

For more information, contact Center for Student Involvement at (671) 735-8887 extension 5518/5519 or email csi@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

Yap Visitors Bureau launches new destination website Visityap.com


YAP
Mystical Micronesia where Mantas dance
SELECT LANGUAGE
DIVE YAP
STAY YAP
FLY YAP
KNOW YAP
DO YAP
BOOK YAP
GALLERIES
NEWS
YAP - Mystical Micronesia Where Mantas Dance
Mogethin (hello) from the Land of Stone Money, Yap, a unique and authentic corner of Micronesian culture whose marine biodiversity, culture, history, people and natural beauty will leave you in awe. We hope that the glimpse into our island treasures on this site will motivate you to journey to our pristine shores Until then, Kefel!

YAP VISITOR BUREAU

Screenshot of one of the pages on Yap's new www.visityap.com destination website.

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia—The Yap Visitors Bureau's tourism promotional efforts to attract more visitors got a significant boost with the recent launch of its new www.visityap.com destination website. The highly optimized and attractive site reflects the new branding of the destination and showcases the main tourism product offerings that make Yap one of the best kept secrets and must visit spots in Micronesia.

» New site designed to promote Yap's unique tourism products

A significant amount of the content focuses on the two main attractors for visitors—scuba diving and cultural heritage products. To portray these and other pertinent tourism information, several customized maps are available on the site including an interactive one for scuba diving. Other maps cover the cultural heritage and World War II sites, businesses, and attractions around the capital Colonia, and how to get Yap.

"The launch of our new visityap.com site is another important marketing milestone for us and comes on the heels of our recently completed tourism branding exercise," comments Susan Gooliyan, general manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau. "These are all part of our overall promotional efforts to grow the tourism sector on Yap and help shore up our other marketing efforts in the areas of advertising, social media, sales promotions and supporting our private sector in attending key trade shows."

Yap is an island in the Federated States of Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean that is ringed by spectacular coral reefs and famous for its scuba diving with giant manta rays, sharks and mandarin fish. Other key activities on the island include kayaking, hiking, deep-sea fishing and exploring the many World War II historical sites. Yap is also uniquely famous for its stone money (huge disks of stone, which are still used today in major transactions), strong traditional culture and way of life, and welcoming residents. A short flight away from Guam or Palau, this Pacific gem is one of the tourism industry's best kept secrets. For more information: www.visityap.com. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Hamas rewards terrorist behind brutal Oct. 7 attack

Hamas has a new leader. And his elevation speaks volumes.

On Tuesday, the terror group announced that Yahya Sinwar had been selected to succeed Ismail Haniyeh, the former head of its political wing, who was assassinated last month in Iran. Israel is thought to be responsible for planting a bomb in a Tehran guesthouse that ended Haniyeh's life.

Let's remember that following the barbaric Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, Haniyeh was seen in video footage with other terrorist leaders celebrating the massacre.

Sinwar, meanwhile, was an architect of that rampage, which left nearly 1,200 Israelis dead, mostly innocent civilians. Other victims—including many women and children—were sexually assaulted or brutally tortured. Hamas seized dozens of people as hostages, some of whom remain in captivity.

Sinwar's history is revealing. In 1988, at the age of 26, he was convicted in Israel, according to court records, "of murdering four Palestinians whom he accused of apostasy or collaborating with Israel," The New York Times reports. After 23 years behind bars, Sinwar was released in a prisoner exchange. He soon became active in advocating for and planning attacks on the Jewish state.

The selection of Sinwar—who has been in hiding for fear of an Israeli assassination attempt—indicates that "Hamas is delivering a message," one analyst told The Wall Street Journal, "that it is strategically lined up behind the armed-resistance approach."

In other words, Hamas has no interest in peace. It has no interest in anything—not even its own people, whom it uses as civilian shields, inviting deaths—other fomenting terror and trying to eliminate the state of Israel.

The Harris-Biden administration, beset by radical progressives who side with the likes of Sinwar and his terror group over the region's only democracy fighting for its survival, is now prevailing upon Iran to back off a potential attack on Israel in retaliation for the Haniyeh killing. Fine. But it hasn't helped that the White House emboldens Sinwar and Hezbollah by spending more time pressuring Israel to stand down than steadfastly warning Iran and its proxy terrorists that the United States stands behind the Jewish state and there will be consequences for continuing to finance death and unrest in the region.

"Israeli and U.S. intelligence officers have said," the Times wrote, "that Sinwar's strategy is to keep the war in Gaza going for as long as it takes to shred Israel's international reputation and to damage its relationship with its primary ally, the United States."

The Harris-Biden administration has foolishly played into his hands.

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If I were economics czar, what would I do? The right kind of nothing!

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

Bruce Yandle is a Distinguished Adjunct Fellow for the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

It was a late afternoon conversation on the back patio. Dot, my wife, and I were talking about major events that have occurred in our almost 70 years of marriage, and that's a lot of ground to cover. "Do you recall a time like this when it seems the world is coming apart: COVID shutdowns, financial distress, the Ukraine war, the Middle East, and constant economic upheavals, and now a huge financial market sell-off"? Dot asked.

After thinking a bit, I admitted that I could not recall anything quite like the last 15 years.

Dot responded with a challenge: "If you were made economics czar in January and had full sway to change federal policies, what would you do to make things better? Taxes? Regulation? What?"

After a long silence, which gave me a chance to think a bit, I suggested two things that I would do as economics czar. The answers? First, the right kind of nothing—a year-long ban on any changes in taxes, spending, regulation, tariffs and monetary policy, and during that pause, a call for a long conversation with the American people about their hopes, dreams and future promise.

Now, some background.

There's no doubt about it, since the 2008 Great Recession, the U.S. economy has been roiled to look more like the Great American Scream Machine than the Great American Bread Machine. The Federal Reserve is still trying to reduce inflation from the high nines to a 2% goal while working to avoid another recession. Meanwhile, presidential candidates from both parties are calling for more tariffs, higher taxes for some and lower for others, and more or different kinds of regulation.

Put another way, the economics medicine men and women are on the hunt. With external shocks aplenty, like energy interruptions, wars and a pandemic, we have been on a bumpy policy path with more potholes promised.

Just to put some dimensions on the roller coaster turbulence experienced by the American people since 2007, consider this. The unemployment rate stood at 4.7% in October 2007. It rose to 10.0% in October 2009 during the recession, just two years later. The rate then plummeted as the economy became flush with stimulus money and hit 3.5% in February 2020. Then, with COVID shutdowns, the unemployment rate jumped to 14.8% in April 2020, the largest one-month increase since 1939. It then fell to 3.4% in April 2023, after the Fed continued to cut interest rates, but rose to 4.3% in July 2024 following a Fed policy reversal. We are almost back where we started in 2007. Whew!!! What a ride!

The Fed's goosing and then braking actions delivered higher interest rates, which in turn took a bite out of economic activity. The effects are seen in the average interest rate paid nationwide for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages. The rate paid in third quarter 2007 stood at 6.55%. This was before the 2008 Great Recession, COVID and the later battle against inflation. Long after the recession, in the fourth quarter of 2012, when the economy was flooded with money, the rate fell to 3.36%. Then, when the Fed reversed engines and began to tighten, the mortgage rate rose to 4.78% in 2018's fourth quarter. In 2024's second quarter, it hit 7.0%. When the trip started in 2007, the mortgage rate stood at 6.55%. We are almost back. What a ride!

To get a handle on government intervention during all this, the Brookings Institution's Hutchins Center produces a Fiscal Impact Measure that estimates how much local, state and federal spending adds to GDP quarterly growth. The measure's four-quarter moving average stood at minus 0.25 percentage points in 2007's third quarter. At the time, there was no meaningful government stimulus. After efforts to cushion the effects of the 2008 recession, the measure jumped to 2.62 percentage points in 2009's fourth quarter. In 2018's second quarter, the measure rose to 3.85 percentage points, and in 2021's first quarter, 5.23 percentage points. Brookings predicts that the Impact Measure will register minus 0.08% in this year's fourth quarter. This is close to where the ride started in 2007. Finally, real GDP growth was hitting 2.41% in 2007's third quarter. The most recent estimate shows 3.1% for 2024's second quarter.

We are back! But as Jerry Lee Lewis might have put it, there was "a whole lotta shakin' goin on."

So, with this background in mind and memories of the rough roller coaster ride still intact, let's have a year-long policy pause and give the economy a chance to find itself, to regain balance and move forward. Of course, we will have to respond to external shocks, should they occur, but let's not add any of our own making.

And while catching our economic breath, let's have a national conversation with hearings in major cities speaking to the fundamental question: What are our hopes and dreams, and what is our future promise?

Stop speculating on the genitalia of Olympic athletes like Imane Khelif, you weirdos

By ROBIN EPLEY
The Sacramento Bee

Let's get this clear: Algerian boxer and soon-to-be Olympic medalist Imane Khelif is a woman, despite whatever internet rabbit hole that suggests the opposite.

Khelif, 25, was born a woman. She was raised as a woman. She has competed for many years in women's sports. Her passport marks her as a woman, and no transgender women are competing in the 2024 Olympics. Moreover, being transgender in the hyper-conservative, Islamic country of Algeria is illegal; so they definitely did not send a transgender woman to represent them in Paris.

These facts alone should be enough to stop any unfounded rumors that she is a transgender woman competing in women's sports with any perceived advantage.

Unfortunately, right-wing blowhards, evangelical bullies and gender-critical zealots in the U.S and Europe have decided that they know better. That group (unsurprisingly) includes former President Donald Trump, U.S. Senator J.D Vance, author J.K. Rowling and news personality Piers Morgan. Noted British bigot, Rowling, denounced the "new men's rights movement" and misgendered Khelif as "a male who's (sic) knows he's protected by a misogynist sporting establishment enjoying the distress of a woman he's just punched in the head."

Khelif, through no fault of her own, has been at the center of an internet firestorm caused by extremists who decided to bully a woman for not looking womanly enough and for punching harder than her opponent in a punching contest.

That these claims are being made the same year the Olympics finally achieved full gender parity among male and female athletes is no coincidence. Women's sports have always been controversial because there are misguided, misogynistic people in this world who believe women cannot compete in physical sports. Unfortunately, they far too often feel the need to enforce their small-mindedness on the rest of us.

It is a testament to Khelif's skill and talent that she has managed to withstand the intense, international scrutiny to clinch a place in the semi-finals and will now be an Olympic medalist no matter the outcome of her next match, scheduled for Tuesday.

"I address my message to all the people of the world to adhere to the Olympic principles, according to the Olympic Charter, and to avoid bullying all athletes, because this has a great impact and is capable of destroying people, killing people's thinking and minds, and dividing people," Khelif told Algerian broadcaster, SNTV.

The emotional strength it must take for Khelif to publicly call for an end to her repeated harassment — while competing at the world's largest sporting event and a pinnacle of her career — is only matched by her strength in the boxing ring.

Gender essentialism hurts everyone

In arguing that Khelif is a man, it is clear that this is not for the benefit of "real women" as some claim, but rather to enforce a strict gender binary that has no room for any woman who does not conform to their close-minded ideals of femininity.

It would also ensure that any woman who does not "look" like a woman or "behave" like a woman, whatever that means, would be suspected of being transgender. (And that's not even a crime to start with.)

"Women can be strong," said U.S. Women's Rugby player Illona Maher, in a tearful video posted not long before she helped her team win a bronze medal, the first ever for American women in rugby. Despite this triumph, Maher has been bullied repeatedly online for her strength.

"(Women) can have broad shoulders and they can take up space and be big. I'm getting emotional about this because I feel passionate about it," Maher said in her video.

Misogynist arguments on repeat

As a woman of color, Khelif is subject to racially-motivated misogyny, not unlike the career of tennis legend Serena Williams who endured racist and sexist scrutiny and undeserved penalties from judges as well as from the media. Or take the career of basketball player Brittney Griner who was imprisoned in Russia for nearly a year. She suffered in a foreign jail cell while accusations laden with racism, sexism and homophobia took precedence for Americans over the far more important matter of her release.

These arguments matter. The hate and suspicion currently aimed at transgender women will not stop with them, but will ultimately spread toward any woman who does not "perform femininity" well enough for these gender essentialists.

Rights too new to be taken lightly

American women's political and societal gains are still too new to be set in stone, and I, for one, will not go back to the strict rules of gender performance that plagued and hindered my foremothers.

There has still yet to be an all-female Supreme Court, nor an all-female presidential ticket, nor an entirely womanned space shuttle crew. And despite making up 50.1% of the U.S. population, women make up just 10.4% of CEOs at Fortune 500 companies.

Title IX, the landmark Supreme Court case that prohibited sex-based gender discrimination in schools, was passed a mere 17 years before I was born, and my grandmother was not allowed to have a personal checking account until she was 35. My great-grandmother was alive before women were given the right to vote.

Once thought untouchable, Roe vs. Wade has been all but demolished in nearly half of U.S. states; who is to say that our current, conservative court could not reverse all of these unimpeachable rights for women in the same way?

The contrived controversy around Khelif is but a sign and symptom of America's—and much of the world's—deeply gendered bigotry and hate toward any woman who does not perform femininity.

I very much fear where we are headed if gender essentialists are allowed to enforce what a man and woman must look like, how they must act and what is acceptable activities for each gender to do.

Can't we get back to solving problems?

By SETH DAVID RADWELL
The Fulcrum

Seth David Radwell is the author of "American Schism: How the Two Enlightenments Hold the Secret to Healing our Nation" and serves on the Business Council at Business for America. This is the 11th entry in what was intended to be a 10-part series on the American schism in 2024.

We are once again in the thick of a presidential election cycle at risk of being dominated by spectacle and far too light on substance. As in 2016 and 2020, sensationalist developments—most recently an attempted assassination of one candidate and the bowing out of another—have transfixed the media 24/7.

While these recent events were arguably worthy of the attention they received, too often even fairly mundane developments such as Donald Trump's rants and Joe Biden's gaffes seem to become a media obsession. Such coverage distracts us from the pressing consequential issues facing our country and indeed the world.

Without trying to sound Pollyannaish, the goal of government and public policy is to solve problems that threaten our well being and prosperity. Yet somehow such discussions are relegated to a back seat in favor of entertaining yet trivial memes. In this regard, our entire electoral-media complex could use a reboot.

So let's start with the basics. In addition to securing citizens' inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (as articulated in our credo), for a liberal democracy to properly function the government must assume an additional portfolio of activities. In simple terms:

Correct for market failures (e.g. externalities, monopolistic power, unequal access to infrastructure and information, etc.), thereby preserving a capitalistic free-market economy.

Invest, build and ensure uniform access to valuable public goods like common defense, public education and job training, which together provide equal access to opportunity.

Achieve better equity across the strata of society through redistribution so that all can have access to liberty and freedom and enjoy a basic ability to pursue happiness—that is, to provide a safety net for those who cannot do so on their own.

In our role as consumers and citizens we must demand not only that our elected leaders demonstrate a solutions orientation, but that they achieve actual results. If, instead, too many of us demand the intrigue and drama of the spectacle, we become transfixed by the inevitable search for winners and losers, while in reality holding no one accountable for results.

Even the top echelon of our political leadership reinforces this maladaptive pattern. Case in point: Back in 2017 after Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., remarked: "They had their shot in the election … but in this country, when you win the election you get to make policy. I always remind people, winners make policy and losers go home."

An apt sentiment, perhaps, if it was coming from the mouth of a coach who'd just won a tournament. But from one of the country's top legislative leaders in our democratic republic, it's both depressing and inaccurate. In fact, McConnell's take is antithetical to the very concept of democracy in which everyone—not just the winning side — belongs in the conversation.

McConnell's tone-deaf understanding symbolizes the Trump-era political belief that one faction has the power to force its will by imposing draconian measures. However, the philosophy of dividing and excluding the losers from the conversation is incompatible with democracy. So what does winning an election mean?

Danielle Allen, Harvard University professor of government, argues that "winning" in the context of a democracy simply identifies who gets the authority to lead the conversation, to chair the committee responsible for crafting the policy. But in any particular policy debate, it is the responsibility of the "winners" to bring the "losers" back into a conversation that includes many perspectives. In other words, there are no winners or losers.

Modern presidents (Trump excepted) have always acknowledged this important tenet upon declaring victory. They immediately embrace the other side and those who voted for the losing candidate. Further, they make an explicit effort to pull those nonsupporters back into the dialogue. "Let us start afresh," Biden said in his 2021 inaugural address. "I will be a president for all Americans. I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did."

One of the benefits of this approach to democracy is that it has the potential to lead to robust and durable change. The autocrat's tool for change (i.e. handing down dictates), far from changing minds, relies on heavy-handed enforcement. But the democratic process of explicitly incorporating disparate views into the development of solutions has greater potential to shift underlying beliefs and opinions, provided it allows honest and nuanced debate in the public square. Furthermore, once such debate does shift underlying beliefs and opinions, any resulting gains tend to be more resilient.

If we firmly believe in the ideal of democracy—a bottom-up government of, by, and for the people—we must shift our mindset away from a paradigm of winners and losers. We must fully embrace democracy in order to overcome the pain and conflict such a system inevitably entails. As Allen reminds us: "One must sign up for the whole package, recognizing that you will have to share decision-making, you won't win all the time, and you will have to sacrifice but you have to stay in the game."

Furthermore, fixing our broken democracy must be viewed as a top priority, of higher importance than any other substantive goal, since any specific policy "wins" will not be durable or sustainable without a functional and productive democratic process.

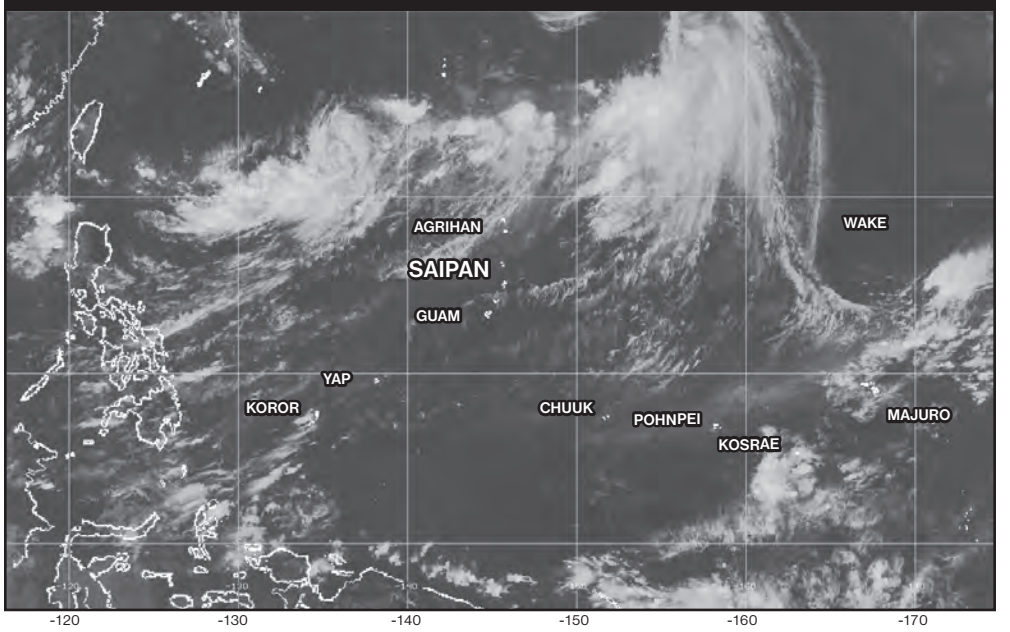
What many Americans—including, apparently, McConnell—need to understand is that democracy isn't a sports competition, in which the winners douse themselves in Gatorade while the losers traipse to the locker room and make their plan to get 'em next time. It's a partnership, an understanding that what's best for the nation is a conversation and cooperative solution space in which everyone has an opportunity to participate. As the past decade so clearly demonstrates, when we start labeling ourselves and our tribes as winners or losers of the political game, we all lose.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 80°	86° 80°	86° 80°	86° 80°	86° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:20 AM MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds will be slightly higher from the south today and overall layer moisture is a touch lower, therefore the chance for island-effect showers is diminished than previous days. Expecting just isolated showers through Tuesday with surface ridging passing through the region. As the ridge shifts west, a series of surface troughs will push into the Marianas, bringing an increased chance of showers and Thunderstorms beginning Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Palau	Light Rain Shower	92° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 80°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:47 PM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:14 AM	1:43 PM
Thursday	-	1:03 AM	2:41 PM
Friday	-	1:59 AM	3:41 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	4:39 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 50°
Beijing	Fair	91° / 76°
Hong Kong	Fair	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 64°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Clear	82° / 71°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	95° /80°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 74°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 79°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	95° / 85°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:21 AM	High Tide	1.80
7:56 AM	Low Tide	0.44
3:14 PM	High Tide	1.54
7:38 PM	Low Tide	1.34

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Rota native gives back in Rota SBDC collaboration

ROTA—The Rota Small Business Development Center is excited to announce an upcoming training session led by a Rota native and experienced travel influencer. Titled "Social Media Mastery-Boost Your Business Online," this essential workshop is designed to empower local businesses by enhancing their social media presence and leveraging cutting-edge tools to reach a broader audience.

It will be held on Aug. 24, 2pm-3:30pm at the Rota NMC Center, Room A1. To register, click https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019165.

Training overview:

■ Learn the fundamentals of setting up and managing social media accounts on major platforms. Understand how to create compelling profiles that attract and engage potential customers.

■ Discover how artificial intelligence can streamline your social media strategy. From content creation to customer engagement, learn how AI tools can save time and boost efficiency.

■ Gain insights into effective content strategies. Learn how to schedule posts, use analytics to refine your approach, and ensure your content reaches the right audience at the right time.

Meet our presenter:

The session will be led by Heaven Griffin, who is an online business coach with seven years of experience. Growing up on the small island of Rota, Griffin developed a deep passion for helping entrepreneurs enhance their social media presence and create profitable businesses. After becoming a mother, she sought ways to generate income online, which eventually led her to create a successful coaching business, found an online academy, and monetize her journey as a travel influencer. Griffin's story proves that, despite being from a small island, she can still accomplish big dreams—just like you.

Griffin

Griffin brings a wealth of experience in driving business growth through online strategies. With her hands-on approach and practical insights, attendees will leave equipped with actionable strategies to elevate their social media game.

Rota SBDC is dedicated to revitalizing the local economy by empowering entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive. This training is part of a broader effort to provide Rota businesses with access to valuable resources and support. By offering workshops like this, the SBDC aims to strengthen the local economy, create opportunities for growth, and ensure that Rota's business community remains vibrant and competitive.

"We are thrilled to have Heaven Griffin, a true daughter of Rota, lead this vital training. Her success story is a powerful example of what can be achieved, and her dedication to giving back to our community is truly inspiring," said Charlene M. Ogo, director of Rota SBDC. "Helping our small businesses with social media training is key to reaching beyond our local area and connecting with a wider audience. It's not just about having an online presence; it's about engaging with people and growing our businesses. By investing in these skills, we're setting up our local economy for success."

This training is a must-attend for business owners, marketers, and anyone looking to enhance their online visibility and engagement. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the best and take your social media skills to the next level.

For more information, contact Rota SBDC director/business advisor Charlene M. Ogo at (670)783-5959 or email charlene.manglona@marianas.edu. For more information, visit www.cnmisbdc.com or contact us at (670) 237-6888/cnmisbdc@marianas.edu. Follow them on social media for the latest updates: Instagram @cnmisbdc and Facebook at CNMI Small Business Development Center Network. ***(PR)***

Guerrero to instruct Chamber's strategic leadership, effective management training

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 3rd Quarter Professional Development Training on on Aug. 29, 2024.

The training will feature two sessions—the first from 8:30am to 12:30pm and the second from 1pm to 5pm, both located at TPOD 1 on the NMC Campus.

This professional development training will be facilitated by the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute and to be instructed by NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

The following are key points of the training:

■ Actionable insights for effective team management

■ Practical strategies for:

Guerrero

❖ Effective communication

❖ Conflict resolution

❖ Strategic leadership

■ Enhancement of managerial skills

■ Immediate impact on professional roles

As a friendly reminder, our training fees are as follows: Chamber member $50 and future Chamber member is $60.

For more information or to secure your seat, reach out to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). ***(PR)***

Nation

Harris pushing joy, Trump painting a darker picture

WASHINGTON (AP)—At the top of his first speech as her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz turned to Vice President Kamala Harris and declared, "Thank you for bringing back the joy." The next day, Harris took the theme a step further, branding the Democratic ticket "joyful warriors."

Contrast that with former President Donald Trump, who opened a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida a few days later by saying, "We have a lot of bad things coming up," and predicting the U.S. could fall into an economic depression unseen since the dark days of 1929 or even another world war.

"I think that our country is, right now, in the most dangerous position it's ever been in, from an economic standpoint, from a safety standpoint," Trump said Thursday.

Democrats are playing up their sunnier outlook, promoting the idea that voters can be inspired to support someone and not just cast their ballot against the other side. The Trump campaign argues their candidate is reflecting the dour mood of the country and dismisses the idea that a growing contrast in tone and upbeat attitude will decide the presidency.

Two-thirds of Americans reported feeling very or somewhat pessimistic about the state of politics, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from last month. Roughly 7 in 10 said things in the country are heading in the wrong direction.

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to the former president, said people don't care about "vibe checks."

"That's not making gas or food or housing less expensive," Miller said.

Walz promotes positivity

Still, just how hard Harris is betting on the opposite approach is evident in her decision to pick Walz, whose personal story includes being on the coaching staff of a high school football team that had gone winless just a few years earlier to clinching a state championship in 1999.

The Minnesota governor's relentless positivity is meant to give supporters a jolt of new energy and keep the momentum that Harris has built after President Joe Biden — facing mounting pressure from within his own party and increasingly pessimistic views about his chances in November — stepped aside and endorsed his vice president.

Walz spent his first week as Harris' running mate traveling to swing states with Harris and underscored the point during a rally in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, celebrating what he said was "the ability to talk about what can be good."

"This idea of caring for our neighbor and kindness, and a hand up when somebody needs it. And just the sense that people go through things and to be able to be there when they need it, that's who we are," he said. "It's not about mocking. It's not name-calling."

Biden often ended his speeches saying he'd never been more optimistic. But he built his now-shuttered reelection bid around branding Trump an existential threat to democracy. The president offered dire predictions about the former president, suggesting he'd dismantle the nation's founding principles should he retake the White House.

Harris' campaign still relies on many of the same themes, decrying Trump as a threat to democracy, warning that he'll impose draconian limits to abortion and voting and that he will follow Project 2025, a plan championed by top conservatives to remake large swaths of the federal government.

And despite Walz insisting that smiles were more powerful than insults, he and Harris have continued their share of denunciations, decrying Trump's conviction in New York on 34 felony counts in a hush-money case and his being found liable for fraudulent business practices and sexual abuse in civil court.

Still, even before she named Walz her running mate, Harris was suggesting that she could help make politics fun again.

"We love our country. And I believe it is the highest form of patriotism to fight for the ideals of our country," Harris declared in campaign speeches before picking Walz. She now tells crowds that she and her running mate "both believe in lifting people up, not knocking them down."

Paula Montagna, who went to see Harris and Walz at a rally outside Detroit last week, highlighted the shift in messaging since Harris took over from Biden.

"Kamala is so positive, and it's nice to hear positive instead of negative," Montagna said.

Trump team says their candidate is reflecting reality

Trump's senior campaign advisers counter that the mood of the country right now is sour over the economy, the state of the U.S.-Mexico border and turmoil in the Middle East and beyond. They see their candidate as reflecting that reality rather than what they believe is a temporary exuberance igniting the Democratic base after months of discouragement over their ticket.

Trump has tried to harness that with his repeated predictions of stock market crashes and war. His campaign appearances have included a long list of other warnings that have veered into the apocalyptic, saying that if he's not elected, "we're not going to have a country anymore," that "the only thing standing between you and its obliteration is me," and that under a Harris administration, "Social Security will buckle and collapse" and "the suburbs will be overrun with violent crime and savage foreign gangs."

During his Republican National Convention speech last month, where his advisers said Trump would seem changed and more personal after surviving an attempted assassination, the former president did strike a different tone—at least to start.

He said early on that he had "a message of confidence, strength and hope" and sought to "launch a new era of safety, prosperity and freedom for citizens of every race, religion, color and creed."

But by the end, Trump had returned to predictions of doom, twice warning, "Bad things are going to happen."

Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Trump's running mate, has drawn a sharp contrast with Walz. Vance has been cheered on the right for being an aggressive fighter on behalf of the former president, particularly when engaging with reporters.

World

Israel widens evacuation orders in southern Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday, a day after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. The airstrike was one of the deadliest attacks in the 10-month war.

Hamas appeared to push back against resuming negotiations on Thursday on any new cease-fire proposals. In a statement, it urged mediators United States, Egypt and Qatar to submit a plan to implement what was agreed on last month, based on U.S. President Joe Biden's proposal, "instead of going to more rounds of negotiations or new proposals that provide cover for the occupation's aggression."

» Hamas wants plans for deal instead of more talks

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops return to heavily destroyed areas where they previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced, often multiple times, in the besieged territory 25 miles (40 kilometers) long by about 7 miles (11 kilometers) wide.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas of Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas.

The humanitarian zone has steadily shrunk during the war with the various evacuation orders. Hundreds of thousands of people have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools, though the United Nations says hundreds of those have been directly hit or damaged.

Khan Younis suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an evacuation order.

The new order came in leaflets dropped from the sky. As smoke rose on the horizon, hundreds of families carrying belongings in their arms left homes and shelters, seeking elusive refuge. One child carried a stuffed Hello Kitty doll as others walked through rubble-filled streets.

Zelenskyy acknowledges military incursion onto Russian soil

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Days after Ukraine began a surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk border region, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has broken the government's silence on it by indirectly acknowledging the ongoing military actions to "push the war out into the aggressor's territory."

Zelenskyy's comment came in his nightly address late Saturday.

Ukraine's incursion into Russia continued for a sixth day Sunday. It's the largest such attack since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022 and is unprecedented for its use of Ukrainian military units on Russian soil. Ukraine's raid into Russia caught Moscow unaware and was an embarrassment to Russian military leaders who have scrambled to contain the breach.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement on Sunday that its forces engaged Ukrainian troops in Tolpino, Zhuravli and Obshchy Kolodez, the official Tass news agency reported. Tolpino is 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

Evacuation of civilians living in Russia's border areas with Ukraine continued Sunday. Russian state television aired footage of evacuees at a tent camp in the city of Kursk. According to the report by RTR, more than 20 temporary accommodation centers have been set up in the region.

The exact aims of the operation remain unclear, and Ukrainian military officials have adopted a policy of secrecy, presumably to ensure its success. Military experts have said that it is likely intended to draw Russian reserves away from the intense fighting in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, while a presidential adviser suggested that it may strengthen Kyiv's hand in any future negotiations with Russia.

But Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Sunday that Ukraine "understands perfectly well" that the recent attacks "make no sense from a military point of view."

"The Kyiv regime is continuing its terrorist activity with the sole purpose of intimidating the peaceful population of Russia," she added.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Families of Brazilian plane crash victims gather in Sao Paulo as French experts join investigation

SAO PAULO (AP)—More than 40 families of victims of an airliner crash in Brazil gathered Sunday at a morgue and hotels in Sao Paulo as three French government investigators arrived in the country. Forensics experts worked to identify the remains of the 62 people killed. Sao Paulo state government said the two engines of the plane were removed from the crash site Sunday evening, more than two days after the accident. The rest of the wreckage had already been removed. The remains of all 34 male and 28 female victims were recovered on Saturday. The ATR 72 twin-engine turboprop operated by Brazilian airline Voepass was headed for Guarulhos international airport in Sao Paulo with 58 passengers and four crew members aboard when it went down Friday in Vinhedo, 78 kilometers (49 miles) north of the city. Voepass said that three passengers who held Brazilian identification also carried Venezuelan documents and one had Portuguese identity.

S. Korea, US will start summer military drills next week to counter N. Korean threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the United States will begin their annual joint military exercises next week with a focus on improving their combined capabilities to deter and defend against growing North Korean nuclear threats, the allies said Monday. The drills could trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which portrays them as invasion rehearsals and have used the allies' military cooperation as a pretext to advance the development of nuclear weapons and missile systems. South Korean and U.S. military officials said this year's Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, scheduled for Aug. 19-29, will include computer-simulated exercises designed to enhance readiness against such threats as missiles, GPS jamming and cyberattacks, and concurrent field maneuvers and live-fire exercises. The allies in particular aim to "further strengthen (their) capability and posture to deter and defend against weapons of mass destruction," military officials said in a joint news conference.

Storm dumps intense rainfall on northern Japan, sending some people to shelters

TOKYO (AP)—A slow-moving storm has been dumping intense rains on northern Japan, swelling rivers, sending residents to shelters and disrupting traffic during a Japanese Buddhist holiday week. The storm was once Typhoon Maria but has weakened, with winds now blowing up to 72 kph (45 mph). It made landfall near Ofunato City in Iwate prefecture Monday morning and was expected to cut across the Tohoku region as it moved northwest at 20 kph (12 mph), according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said no damage or injuries were reported so far, but authorities have cautioned about the risks of flooding and mudslides from a relatively rare storm in the region and advised 170,000 residents in Iwate and neighboring Aomori and Miyagi prefectures to go to shelters. Iwate prefecture said about 2,000 people actually took shelter early Monday. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed that the government would quickly provide information and support to residents in the affected areas.

Life & Style

Disney thrills fans at D23 with 'Incredibles 3' announcement, footage from 'Moana 2'

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Disney teased upcoming its movies and television series including "Moana 2" in a rousing showcase featuring sneak peaks, live performances and surprise appearances from actors including Dwayne Johnson, Zoe Saldaña and Jude Law.

Fans at Disney's D23 convention welcomed CEO Bob Iger with a standing ovation Friday at the top of the showcase. "The world needs to be entertained maybe even more so now than ever before and we take that responsibility seriously," he said before presentations teased new movies in the "Avatar," "Toy Story" and "Incredibles" franchises.

In the evening's first surprise, Auli'i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson of "Moana" jolted the crowd of over 15,000 at the Honda Center with a performance of a song featuring drummers and dancers in costumes styled after the beloved animated movie.

The actors are reprising their roles as Moana and Maui, respectively, in "Moana 2," which is set to hit theaters Nov. 27. Before showing an extended sneak peek of the film, Johnson said that working on the films has been special to him, noting that his daughters, who are 6 and 8 years old, were in the crowd.

Disney subsequently released the film's first full-length trailer online. The footage introduces characters new (Moana now has a little sister) and familiar, like her pet pig Pua and the Kakamora, a band of dart-blowing coconut-clad pirates.

Johnson also announced that he'd be continuing his long-running work on Disney projects to create a "Monster Jam" live-action movie. The studio did not announce any updates to Johnson's other Disney project, the live-action "Moana," that is in development.

Star Wars updates

Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni teased the May 2026 Star Wars film "The Mandalorian & Grogu," which they said only started filming recently. Favreau said he felt compelled to "put something together" for the showcase and showed a brief clip featuring the title characters, as he put it, "on a whole new journey."

Law spoke about "Star Wars: Skeleton Crew," announcing it will be coming to Disney+ on Dec. 3.

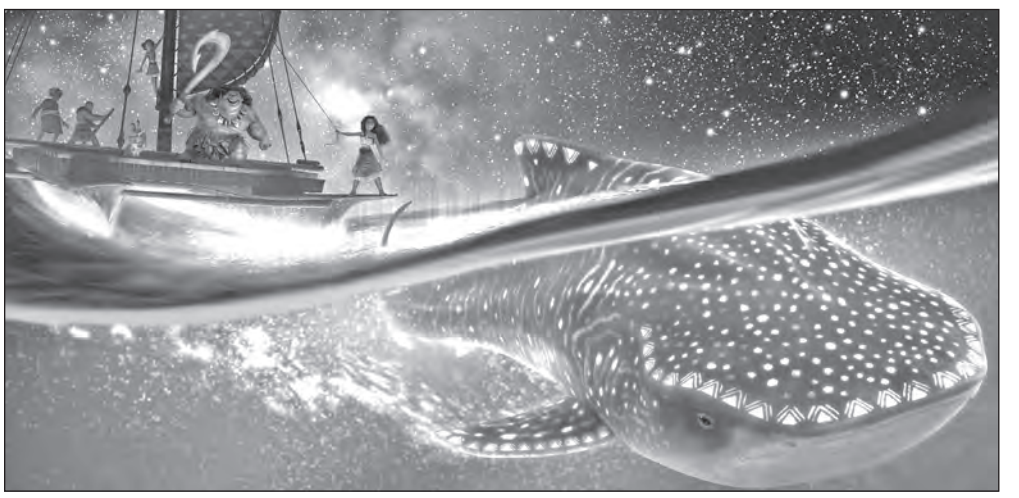
"I fell in love with 'Star Wars' when I was a 10-year-old boy," Law said before he sharing footage from the show, which has been billed as a coming-of-age tale.

Updates on 'Avatar,' 'Frozen' and Pixar sequels

Pixar Animation Chief Creative Officer Pete Docter announced the studio is developing a third "The Incredibles" movie, with Brad Bird returning as director.

"Toy Story 5" director Andrew Stanton said it'll be toys versus tech in the summer 2026 film featuring Woody, Buzz and the rest of the crew.

Jennifer Lee, the chief creative officer of Walt Disney Animation Studios, shared concept art from "Frozen III" that features Anna, Elsa and Olaf looking onto the horizon with an ominous creature lurking close behind them. The film will arrive in 2027.



AP

This image released by Walt Disney Animation Studios shows a scene from "Moana 2," expected in theaters November 2024.

Director James Cameron and actors Zoe Saldaña and Sam Worthington reunited on stage to announce the official title of the third "Avatar" movie: "Avatar: Fire and Ash."

"The new film is not what you expect, but it's definitely what you want," said Cameron, who will be bestowed "Disney Legends" status in a ceremony to close out D23 on Sunday.

Fans got a look at "Zootopia 2," coming to theaters November 2025. The film's star Ginnifer Goodwin also announced Ke Huy Quan will be joining the cast as a snake.

Fresh off Comic-Con, Marvel teases more

Following the blitz of announcements from Marvel at Comic-Con International, the studio's president Kevin Feige came out after a welcome video from Ryan Reynolds, who thanked the crowd for supporting his box office record-breaking "Deadpool & Wolverine."

Ryan Coogler, the director of the "Black Panther" movies, joined Feige to discuss "Ironheart," starring Dominique Thorne and Anthony Ramos. The cast introduced a first look at the series that follows Thorne's character, Riri Williams, who was first introduced in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

Feige also spoke about "Marvel's first family," the Fantastic Four. Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach said hello to the audience in a short video clip in their costumes from the set in the U.K., where filming began late last month.

Fans also got a glimpse of the first look at "Daredevil: Born Again," set to start streaming on Disney+ in March. Feige said the new series will channel the essence of the Netflix original, with Charlie Cox reprising his role as Matt Murdock, but will also set the characters on a new path. A secon season is in the works.

Big musical moments

Music will be a key part of "Mufasa: The Lion King," the upcoming prequel to the 2019 photo-realistic film, a remake of the 1994 animated classic. Director Barry Jenkins and Lin-Manuel Miranda, who created original music for the new movie, introduced a clip featuring a new song, "I Always Wanted a Brother," which depicts the early relationship between Mufasa and Scar.

Rachel Zegler and Gal Gadot took to the stage to promote their live-action "Snow White" movie, which is scheduled for March 2025. Zegler plays the original Disney princess and "Wonder Woman" Gadot plays the evil queen. The film will feature new songs from duo Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, known for "La La Land" and "Dear Evan Hansen."

Jared Leto and Jeff Bridges took to the stage to promote "Tron: Ares," which will be scored by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross' Nine Inch Nails.

Kathryn Hahn performed a new song from her upcoming Marvel series "Agatha All Along," another earworm for fans of the 2021 "WandaVision" musical number. She praised the songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, who wrote the hit song from "WandaVision" that the series is named after and previously penned hits from "Frozen" and "Coco."

'Freaky Friday' returns

Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan announced the official title for the highly anticipated "Freaky Friday" sequel, "Freakier Friday."

Curtis, who will be honored as a Disney Legend on Sunday, said she felt like no time had passed since they filmed the 2003 movie as they shared the first images from the new film.

Pixar talks its new stories, series

Docter also announced an original Pixar film, "Hoppers," starring Bobby Moynihan and Jon Hamm, and shared exclusive looks at upcoming film "Elio." The young star of "Elio," Yonas Kibreab, brought Saldaña back onstage and announced her as a lead character, joining America Ferrera and Jameela Jamil in the cast. The movie will hit theaters in June 2025.

Woman tired of connecting friends at her own expense

DEAR ABBY: I'm an outgoing person with a lot of friends, but I have begun being "ghosted" after setting up or facilitating an introduction between male and female friends. This has happened more than once when I'm pretty good friends with the guy. I introduce him to a female friend or colleague and encourage their relationship, only to have him tell me she isn't comfortable with his being my friend, gets jealous, etc.

Abby, I am happily married. I'm not interested in these men, and I'm really annoyed at losing a friend (or worse, he wants to meet only in secret). In most of these cases, I was friendly with the man's ex, and we all did things together without issue. It's making me not want to have male friends and to be wary of female friends. Advice?

MATCHMAKER IN INDIANA

DEAR MATCHMAKER: Talk about ingratitude. It appears no good deed goes unpunished. It also appears you are swimming in a pond filled with insecure female friends and colleagues. The lesson here is: Stop fixing these women up. Stay out of the line of fire and let them find their own dates from now on.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: How do I get over my ex-husband? He wanted the divorce. I was told, not asked! It has been 10 years, yet I still dream about him. I haven't been with him or any other man since then. My disordered sleep is making me crazy. I have tried therapy, sleeping aides (OTC medication, sleep apps), but I still dream of him—good dreams and bad ones. I'm not sure how much more I can take. How do I keep my ex from my dreams?

HAUNTED IN ALASKA

DEAR HAUNTED: I have found that the more we try to censor our dreams, the more frequent they become, particularly if the last thing you think about before going to sleep is, "DON'T think about the rat who left me so unceremoniously!" What may help your sleep quality would be to find another therapist and talk, talk, talk until you finally accept that your ex is history. Then you can finally start dreaming about your future instead of the past.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a married disabled woman. I dress myself, wash my clothes, clean up after myself, make my own breakfast and lunch, and cook dinner for my family. I do at-home rehab. My husband is supposed to stretch my legs twice daily to keep them limber, but he refuses to do it twice a day. He will do it only once if I remind him. He won't make our bed or help to clean up the kitchen after I cook. Am I wrong to feel that something is wrong with this picture?

DOING MY PART IN TEXAS

DEAR DOING: You are entitled to your feelings. It is sad that your husband isn't more willing to help, and you have the right to ask him why he's not. Because he refuses to assist with your rehab more than once a day, if possible, make other arrangements for it. Perhaps another relative or a friend could assist. Your doctor may also be able to help you find someone.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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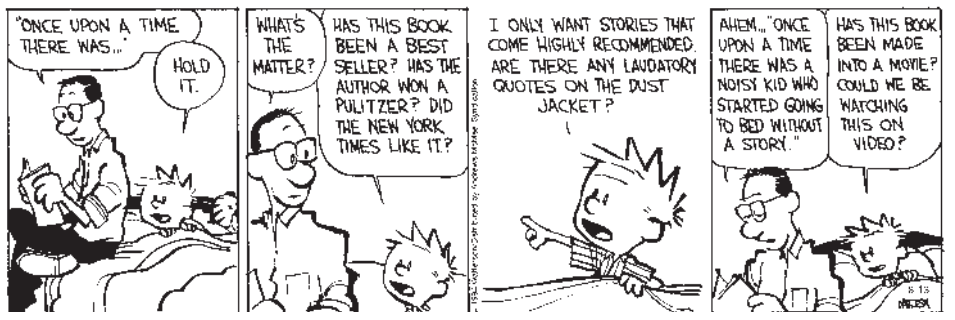
Pastimes

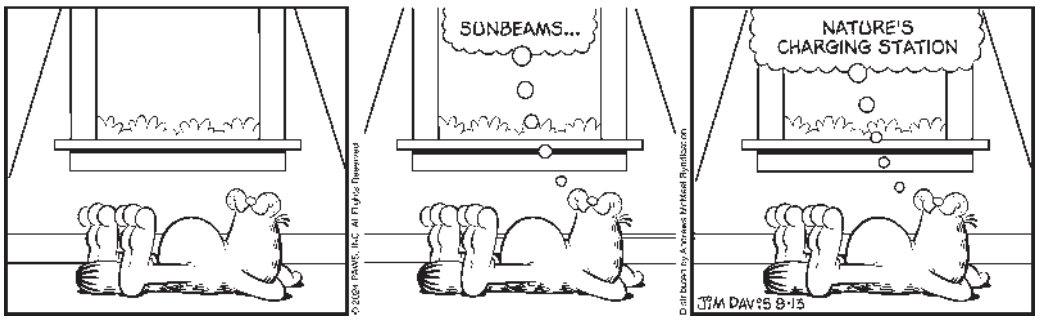
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS..."
HOLD IT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HAS THIS BOOK BEEN A BEST SELLER? HAS THE AUTHOR WON A PULITZER? DID THE NEW YORK TIMES LIKE IT?
I ONLY WANT STORIES THAT COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. ARE THERE ANY LAUDATORY QUOTES ON THE DUST JACKET?
AHEM... "ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A NOISY KID WHO STARTED GOING TO BED WITHOUT A STORY."
HAS THIS BOOK BEEN MADE INTO A MOVIE? COULD WE BE WATCHING THIS ON VIDEO?

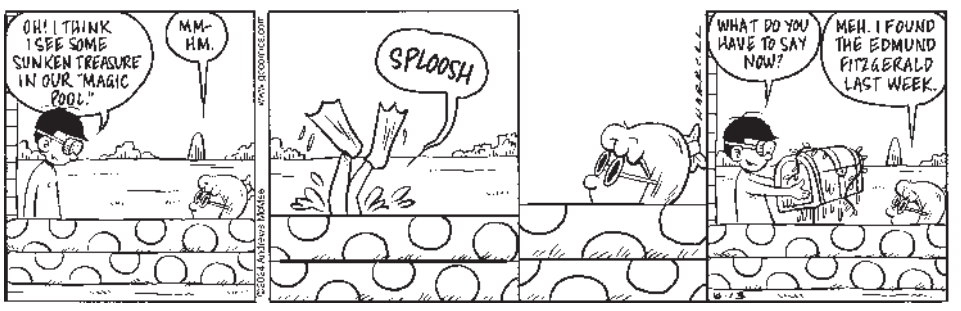
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH! I THINK I SEE SOME SUNKEN TREASURE IN OUR "MAGIC POOL."
MM-HM.
SPLOOSH
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY NOW?
MEH. I FOUND THE EDMUND FITZGERALD LAST WEEK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

LET ME START BY SAYING THAT I CAN PROVIDE 3 CHARACTER REFERENCES.
WHO CARES? THIS ISN'T A JOB INTERVIEW!
GOOD, BECAUSE THEY ALL HATE ME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

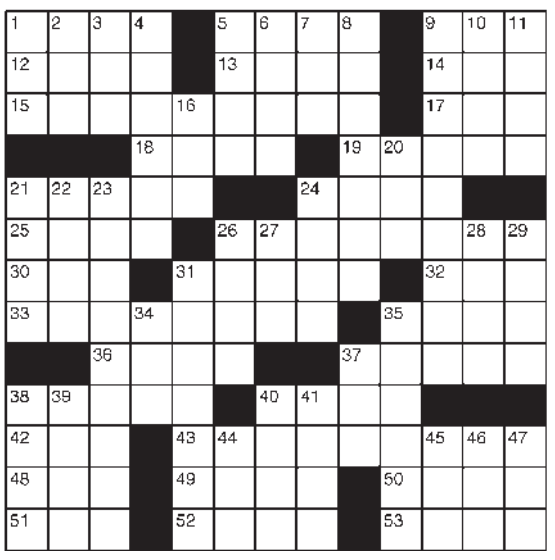
ACROSS
1 Physics bit
5 Cries of discovery
9 Memo letters
12 Lawn mower brand
13 Aloe —
14 Scooted
15 Texas city
17 Work unit
18 Charged bits
19 Stadium
21 Blunder
24 Sketch
25 "Lucky Jim" author
26 Italian dessert
30 Kiefer, to Donald
31 Twelve
32 Texter's guffaw
33 Gathered
35 Skirt feature
36 Funny folks
37 Eric Clapton hit
38 Part of Hispaniola
40 Afternoon affairs
42 Coffee vessel
43 Latte alternative
48 Shad product
49 Cold War initials
50 Reunion attendee
51 NFL six-pointers
52 Sci-fi's Skywalker
53 Bigfoot's cousin

DOWN
1 Justice Dept. agency
2 Overly
3 Hockey's Bobby
4 Themes
5 Bard's river
6 Towel word
7 Skill
8 Desertlike
9 1993 film starring an orca
10 Knitter's need
11 "Young Frankenstein" role
16 Misery
20 Aries
21 React in horror
22 Latin love
23 Sommelier's suggestions
24 Historic Scott
26 Brady and Hanks
27 Noun-to-verb suffix
28 Earth
29 Cosmetics chain
31 Obedient
34 Command to Rover
35 Glide
37 Order partner
38 In pain
39 Yankee nickname
40 To-do list item
41 French 101 verb
44 Baton Rouge sch.
45 — -de-France
46 Boy king
47 Brit. record label

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	A	A	B	■	P	C	■	B	A	S	C	■
S	E	N	O	R	I	T	A	■	R	U	I	N
T	R	A	S	H	C	A	N	■	O	R	G	Y
■	■	■	N	E	O	■	B	A	N	A	N	A
N	O	K	I	A	■	B	C	I	T	■	■	■
I	D	E	A	■	C	U	R	R	E	N	T	■
B	O	T	■	T	A	B	B	Y	■	A	H	I
■	B	O	S	A	N	N	A	■	S	P	U	R
■	■	■	A	R	T	S	■	T	H	E	S	E
M	E	A	D	O	W	■	D	E	R	■	■	■
E	G	A	D	■	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N
E	A	R	L	■	I	N	F	I	N	I	T	Y
K	N	E	E	■	I	O	I	■	E	A	V	E

Yesterday's answer 8-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shani Davis, 42; Debi Mazar, 60; John Slattery, 62; Dawnn Lewis, 63.

Happy Birthday: Learn as you go. Don't question your instincts or spend what you don't have. Set high standards and rules to live by that will encourage gratitude and good health. Respect yourself, and you'll gain the respect of others. Don't limit what you can do. Be novel but practical, and you'll find victory. Make changes for the right reason. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 28, 32, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pick up the pace, and handle your responsibilities. Don't take unnecessary risks that have the potential to lead to injury, insult or illness. Stay focused on doing your part and living up to your promises. Stay within budget and stick to the rules. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be direct, and respond with honesty and facts to back up your words. Refuse to let emotions set in if someone pressures you. Concentrate on doing, looking and feeling your best, and enjoy. Be grateful for your skills and life. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take the high road. Refuse to get involved in someone else's drama or limit what you can achieve because you gave someone the right to decide for you. Rethink your situation, and put guidelines in place that help you overcome negativity and poor decisions others make. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Reinvent how you use your skills. Keeping up with the times will help you access higher-income positions. Refrain from getting angry over something you can't change. Find a unique route to help you bypass what's holding you back. A positive approach will help clear the way. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take the time to plan before you act. Change requires thought if you want to come out on top. Go into each scenario you face with an open heart and mind; observe, evaluate and do what's necessary to keep the peace and win the battle. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Risks are off the table. Bide your time and do your due diligence; it will change your perspective and help you fit into trends. Smooth transitions come from preparation, adding to your qualifications and staying connected to the people you aspire to surpass. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Broaden your awareness and explore what's available. Learning something new or exposing yourself to an activity or event will motivate you to make new acquaintances and introduce you to something that can augment what you already know or do. Traveling for educational purposes is favored. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look, observe and follow through. Turn your ideas into something tangible. Make the effort, and you'll reap the rewards. An emotional situation requires a shift. Implement suggestions that make your life flow better. Embrace what puts your mind at ease. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Recognize your limitations and strengths, and consider your options. Refrain from following the crowd if you want to find your path to happiness. Trust your instincts and believe in your ability to know what's best for you. Change your lifestyle to meet your needs. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discipline will help you conquer whatever you set out to do. Saving money, having a better health regimen and achieving your desired level of success will lead to better lifestyle changes. Use your ingenuity to attract the help you need. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Change what isn't working in your life. Focus on convenience and comfort. Talk to experts and partners, and you'll discover how to achieve peace of mind in an orderly fashion. Set a game plan in motion and contribute time, effort and ingenuity to making your life easier. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep secret information to yourself. Share only what's necessary and factual. Making promises prematurely will deter you from implementing a lifestyle change. Emotional issues will surface, and decisions will require thought, integrity and action. Working alone is in your best interest. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, changeable and emotional. You are curious and intent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1			8	7	6	2	5
	7	8					3	4
		5						
	5				8			
7		1	3	5				
3	6	4	2	7				8
5	4				1			6
1				6	5	2	4	
	2	6			3		1	7

Difficulty: ★★ 8/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	2	5	6	7	3	4	1
4	5	1	2	3	8	6	9	7
7	3	6	4	9	1	5	8	2
2	4	8	3	7	6	1	5	9
1	7	9	8	5	4	2	3	6
3	6	5	1	2	9	8	7	4
5	1	3	7	4	2	9	6	8
6	8	7	9	1	5	4	2	3
9	2	4	6	8	3	7	1	5

Difficulty: ★ 8/12

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO Solution: 10 letters

A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	G	O	T	H	I	C	A
B	B	M	R	E	P	P	O	H	D	R	A	W	D	E
E	O	S	D	V	A	N	G	O	G	H	S	M	Z	T
D	R	A	T	S	S	N	I	O	C	T	I	N	W	O
R	J	U	D	R	L	S	E	R	O	R	O	G	A	U
O	D	S	T	S	A	L	T	N	E	R	T	N	T	R
O	O	Y	K	C	R	C	E	A	B	N	I	I	E	E
M	O	R	S	C	E	E	T	H	T	W	C	T	R	N
I	W	A	T	K	A	T	T	P	S	U	K	N	L	Z
N	T	R	C	E	S	T	I	S	I	I	E	I	I	O
A	N	B	L	S	X	A	S	H	I	C	T	A	L	P
R	A	I	A	N	G	T	M	Y	C	S	A	P	I	I
L	R	L	Y	A	D	Y	N	I	A	R	O	S	E	A
E	G	R	A	N	T	P	A	R	K	H	A	W	S	N
S	K	W	A	H	T	H	G	I	N	O	I	L	T	O

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Abstract, Admire, American Gothic, Architecture, Bedroom in Arles, Bronze, Clay, Coins, Edward Hopper, Glass, Grant Park, Grant Wood, Haystacks, Jade, Library, Lion, Masks, Nighthawks, Painting, Picasso, Rainy Day, Renzo Piano, Shells, Statue, Stone, Text, Ticket, Tour, Two Sisters, Van Gogh, Water Lilies

Yesterday's Answer: Lineage

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on ine at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Paris closes Olympics, LA turns to Tom Cruise for 2028 mission

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP)—Setting out to prove that topping Paris isn't mission impossible, Los Angeles rolled out a skydiving Tom Cruise, Grammy winner Billie Eilish and other stars on Sunday as it took over Olympic hosting duties from the French capital, which closed out its 2024 Games just as they started—with joy and panache.

Capping two and a half extraordinary weeks of Olympic sports and emotion, Paris' boisterous, star-studded closing ceremony in France's national stadium mixed unbridled celebration with a somber call for peace from International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.

Following in Paris' footsteps in 2028 promises to be a challenge: It made spectacular use of its cityscape for its first Games in 100 years, with the Eiffel Tower and other iconic monuments becoming Olympic stars in their own right as they served as backdrops and venues for medal-winning feats.

But the City of Angels, like the City of Light, showed that it, too, holds some aces.

Cruise—in his Ethan Hunt persona—wowed by descending from the top of the stadium to electric guitar "Mission: Impossible" riffs. Once his feet were back on the ground—and after shaking hands with enthralled athletes—he took the Olympic flag from star gymnast Simone Biles, fixed it to the back of a motorcycle and roared out of the arena.

AP

Tom Cruise is lowered on the Stade de France during the 2024 Summer Olympics closing ceremony, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France.

The appetite-whetting message was clear: Los Angeles 2028 promises to be an eye-opener, too.

Still, this was largely Paris' night—its opportunity for one final party. And what a party it was. Thousands of athletes danced and sang the night away—reveling in the artistic show that celebrated Olympic themes and its firework flourishes.

Even Bach got the party bug, jokingly calling the Paris Games "Seine-sational"—a nod to the Seine River that, despite water quality concerns, staged Olympic triathlon and marathon swimming and the wacky and wonderful opening ceremony.

At what will be his last Games after announcing his intention to step down next year, Bach also made a somber appeal for "a culture of peace" in a war-torn world.

"We know that the Olympic Games cannot create peace, but the Olympic Games can create a culture of peace that inspires the world," he said. "Let us live this culture of peace every single day."

Cruise then provided a change of gear.

After being lowered on a rope live from the roof's giddy heights, Cruise drove his bike past the Eiffel Tower in a prerecorded segment, onto a plane and then skydived over the Hollywood Hills. Three circles added to the O's of the famed Hollywood sign, creating five interlaced Olympic rings.

In the stadium, the athletes' enthusiasm bubbled over when crowds of them rushed the stage at one point. Stadium announcements urged them to double back. Some stayed, creating an impromptu mosh pit around Grammy-winning French pop-rock band Phoenix as they played, before security and volunteers cleared the stage.

Multiple French athletes crowd-surfed. U.S. team members jumped up and down in their Ralph Lauren jackets.

On the stadium's giant screens, Eilish, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, rapper Snoop Dogg—wearing pants with the Olympic rings after being a popular feature of the Paris Games—and Dr. Dre kept the party going in an prerecorded show from a California beach.

Each is a California native, including H.E.R., who sang the U.S. national anthem live at the Stade de France, crammed with more than 70,000 people.

The stadium crowd roared as French swimmer Léon Marchand, dressed in a suit and tie instead of the swim trunks he wore to win four golds, first collected the Olympic flame from the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

Reappearing later in the stadium to spectators' chants of "Léon, Léon," Marchand then blew out the flame. The Summer Games were over.

Their next stop: LA in 2028.

The national stadium, France's largest, was one of the targets of Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers who killed 130 people in and around Paris on Nov. 13, 2015. The joy and celebrations that swept Paris during the Games as Marchand and other French athletes racked up 64 medals—16 of them gold—marked a major watershed in the city's recovery from that night of terror.

"Paris became a party again and France found itself," said Tony Estanguet, head of the Paris Games organizing committee.

The closing ceremony also saw the awarding of the last medals—each embedded with a chunk of the Eiffel Tower. Fittingly for the first Olympics that aimed for gender parity, they all went to women—the gold, silver and bronze medalists from the women's marathon earlier Sunday.

The women's marathon took the spot of the men's race that traditionally closed out previous Games. The switch was part of efforts in Paris to make the Olympic spotlight shine more brightly on the sporting feats of women. Paris was also where women first made their Olympic debut, at the Games of 1900.

The U.S. team again topped the medal table, with 126 in all and 40 of them gold.

As a delicate pink sunset gave way to night, athletes marched into the stadium waving the flags of their 205 countries and territories—a display of global unity in a world gripped by global tensions and conflicts. The stadium screens carried the words, "Together, united for peace."

A golden-shrouded figure dropped spider-like from the skies into a darkened world of smoke and swirling stars. Olympic symbols were celebrated, including the flag of Greece, birthplace of the ancient Games, and the five interlaced Olympic rings, lit up in white in the arena where tens of thousands of lights glittered like fireflies.

Now, the lights are out. But the memories of Paris' special summer won't dim anytime soon.

"We saw ourselves as a people of incorrigible grumblers," Estanguet said. "We woke up in a country of wild fans who would not stop singing."

After Paris Olympics shined, LA in 2028 brings new and returning sports, plus a fresh look

PARIS (AP)—The Olympics will always have Paris. Next up for the Summer Games: Los Angeles 2028.

The baton will be handed from one third-time Olympic host city to another at the closing ceremony Sunday in Paris, and much will be different in four years' time.

New sports will make their Olympic debuts, picked by organizers in LA who also are bringing back others that left the program more than 100 years ago.

While Paris had the Seine River, LA has the Pacific Ocean and its beaches.

Paris' unmatched historic buildings gave the city a cinematic look. LA's streets are a living history of film and television.

Here's a look at some things that will be different about the next Summer Games.

Which sports will be new at the Los Angeles Olympics?

Flag football, squash and obstacle racing. Yes, "American Ninja Warrior"-style obstacle racing, to replace the horses and pep up modern pentathlon.

Sports that get invited into the Olympics typically are played across the world. In the modern Olympics, however, they also must be wanted by the host city.

Flag football is a good fit for Los Angeles organizers, who last year told IOC members before they voted that it represents "the future and the tip of the spear for American football's international growth."

Squash will join tennis and badminton as racket sports at the Games. Could padel or pickleball one day follow?

Squash lost out in several previous campaigns and, like flag football, now goes Games to Games with no guarantee of staying for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Modern pentathlon has been an Olympics staple since 1912 but often has seemed close to being ousted. Equestrian is being replaced as one of the five disciplines as requested by the IOC after a horse was abused in Tokyo three years ago.

In comes obstacle racing in LA, aiming to make the sport more accessible and relatable.

Gone for a century, back in LA

Lacrosse last was played at the Olympics in 1908, cricket not since 1900.

Both return in 2028 with eager support from Los Angeles organizers and in viewer-friendly short formats; Lacrosse in a six-a-side version, cricket in the aggressive, hard-hitting T20 version that does not require five days per match.

Lacrosse pays respect to the Indigenous roots of the sport: "It is truly authentic to the land we are on," LA 2028 chairman Casey Wasserman said Saturday.

Cricket has been coveted to connect especially with the more than 1.6 billion people in India and Pakistan.

"They are going to be paying attention to the Olympics like they never have," Wasserman said. Cricket surely will be kept in 2032 by Brisbane, which is home to one of the sport's most storied venues.

Baseball and softball have perhaps the most unusual modern Olympics story: out after the 2008 Beijing Games, back in at Tokyo in 2021, out in Paris, back in LA. Well, Oklahoma City, in softball's case.

Home to women's softball in 2028 is Devon Park that stages the Women's College World Series each year, about 1,300 miles (2,100 kilometers) from the Pacific Ocean.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has said he's open to allowing Major League Baseball players to participate in the LA Games, but significant challenges remain. Insurance policies for players like Shohei Ohtani and Aaron Judge, whose contracts are worth hundreds of millions of dollars, may be the biggest sticking point.

Early opening, early closing

The next Summer Games start two weeks earlier than this one, with an opening ceremony on Friday, July 14.

There's no river in LA to match Paris' athlete parade on boats on the Seine, though it will use two stadiums instead of one: both SoFi Stadium and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum will be in play.

That plan means flipping the schedule of the modern Summer Games.

Track and field is at the Coliseum—as it was in 1932 and 1984—and now moves up a week, replacing swimming as the front-loaded anchor sport. That is because So-Fi must be converted into a spectacular temporary venue for swimming with seats for 38,000 fans. Races will move back into the second full week of action.

The July 30 end date in Los Angeles is the first time a northern hemisphere Summer Games will finish so early since the 1924 Olympics closed July 27 in Paris.

How will the Los Angeles Olympics look?

The Paris Olympics often looked incredible on screen. Los Angeles practically invented the look of modern cinema and television and is a creative hub of music and fashion.

The message here to LA is consistently: Don't try to copy Paris.

"Paris is the most beautiful city in the world," Wasserman said Saturday. "The 2028 Games will be authentically Los Angeles."

The IOC's head of Olympic broadcasting, Yiannis Exarchos, said LA "cannot redo a city (Paris) with a history of 500 years. LA speaks about the future, about new frontiers, about technology."

Road events such as marathons and cycling can show "where a big part of the mythology of the 20th century has been created, because of Hollywood," Exarchos said in an interview.

"This is where I am more intrigued. I find interesting to see how we can recreate the television geography of LA."

Mariners sweep the Mets with 12-1 victory

SEATTLE (AP)—Cal Raleigh hit two home runs, Luis Castillo struck out nine and the Seattle Mariners completed a spirited sweep of the New York Mets with a 12-1 win on Sunday.

Castillo gave up four hits and walked two in six innings, completing a tour de force series for Seattle's starters. George Kirby, Logan Gilbert and Castillo combined to strike out 21 and give up 10 hits while walking four in 19 innings.

New York's Jeff McNeil ended a scoreless streak of 27 innings with a solo home run in the sixth inning, the only run for the Mets in the three-game series.

Seattle has won four straight and remains tied atop the AL West with the Houston Astros.

Castillo (10-11) had the Mets baffled at times, striking out five straight batters midway through his start. He got the side swinging in the fourth, finishing Jose Iglesias with a sinker inside that caused the batter to comically corkscrew into the ground to end the inning.

Raleigh put the Mariners up 4-0 with a two-run homer in the fifth inning, then hit a three-run shot in the six-run sixth to make it 10-1. The catcher's third multi-homer game this season brings his total to 26. He came to the plate in the seventh with the bases loaded, but popped out to left field.

AP

Seattle Mariners' Cal Raleigh celebrates with teammates after hitting a home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024, in Seattle.

ANGELS 6, NATIONALS 4

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jack Kochanowicz pitched 7 2/3 innings to earn his first major league win, Kevin Pillar hit a three-run double and Los Angeles beat Washington.

Los Angeles avoided a three-game series sweep in its first visit to Washington since 2017 and went 3-3 on a road trip that began in New York against the Yankees.

The Nationals issued 13 walks, matching their most since the franchise moved to Washington in 2005. The Angels turned four of those into runs to help deny the Nationals their fourth series sweep of the season.

Kochanowicz (1-2) made his third career start and it went considerably better than the two last month, when he gave up a combined 12 runs over seven innings. Recalled from Double-A Rocket City on Saturday, the right-hander retired the first eight Nationals hitters before Nasim Nuñez reached on an infield single.

RAYS 2, ORIOLES 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Curtis Mead had a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning, and Tampa Bay avoided a three-game sweep by beating Baltimore.

Anthony Santander hit his 35th homer and Albert Suárez gave up four hits in 6 2/3 scoreless innings for the Orioles, who started the day with a one-game lead over the New York Yankees in the AL East,

Brandon Lowe walked to open the eighth against struggling reliever Craig Kimbrel (6-4) and stole second with one out. Christopher Morel drew a walk, the Rays had a double steal and Josh Lowe was intentionally walked to load the bases before Mead hit a sacrifice fly to make it 2-1.

Kimbrel, fifth all-time with 440 saves, didn't work the ninth for the fourth straight appearances after posting a 13.50 ERA during the second half of July.

YANKEES 8, RANGERS 7

NEW YORK (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer after Aaron Judge was intentionally walked in the fifth inning, Juan Soto went deep twice, Judge hit his MLB-best 42nd homer and New York hung on for a victory over Texas.

Judge reached base four times, marking the 41st time he reached base at least three times this season. He singled twice and and homered for the first time since Aug. 3—when Toronto walked him with two outs and nobody on base in the second inning following his 41st homer.

Playing in his ninth game since missing 28 with a hamstring injury, Stanton tied a season high with four RBIs and homered in consecutive games for the first time since June 11-12 in Kansas City to reach 20 homers for the 13th time in his first 15 seasons.

ATHLETICS 8, BLUE JAYS 4

TORONTO (AP)—JJ Bleday and Zack Gelof both homered in a six-run first inning, JP Sears pitched seven innings to win his third straight start and Oakland beat Toronto for their 50th win, matching their total from last season.

Lawrence Butler had three hits, including a pair in the first inning, and drove in a run as Oakland improved to 20-13 since July 2, the third-best record in baseball in that span.

Bleday reached base four times, Gelof had three hits and Brent Rooker added two hits and an RBI. The Athletics have won six of their past eight series.

Oakland (50-69) lost 112 games last season and 102 the year before that.

In 2023, the Athletics didn't earn their 50th win until Sept. 30, the penultimate day of the regular season.

MARLINS 7, PADRES 6

MIAMI (AP)—Jake Burger homered for the third straight game, Jesús Sánchez also had a home run and Miami beat San Diego to end their seven-game win streak.

Burger has homered 12 times since the All-Star break.

Ha-Seong Kim originally was credited with a game-tying home run off Andrew Nardi when his drive bounced off the padding in left field and then deflected over the wall with two outs in the ninth. But after an umpire review, the call was reversed to a double.

George Soriano relieved Nardi and struck out Luis Campuzano for his first save.

Marlins starter Max Meyer (3-2) allowed three runs and seven hits, while striking out four in a career-high 6 1/3 innings. Meyer was lifted after David Peralta's run-scoring double got San Diego within 5-4.

GUARDIANS 5, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—David Fry and José Ramírez homered, and Cleveland held on to beat Minnesota to earn a split of the four-game series between the top two teams in the AL Central.

The Guardians won their second straight after losing seven in a row, and now lead Minnesota by 3 1/2 games. Kansas City is four games back.

Emmanuel Clase pitched a shaky ninth for his 35th save as Minnesota loaded the bases with no outs in the final frame, but Willi Castro struck out on a full count and Trevor Larnach grounded into a double play.

Byron Buxton homered twice for Minnesota, which fell to 2-7 against Cleveland this year.

ASTROS 10, RED SOX 2

BOSTON (AP)—Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer to key a five-run fifth inning, Yordan Alvarez followed with his third homer in two games and Houston beat Boston to complete a three-game series sweep.

It was the fifth straight win for the AL West-leading Astros, who also swept a three-game series in Fenway Park last season. Houston has won seven of its last eight series in Boston.

Jeremy Peña added a two-run homer and Yainer Diaz had a two-run double for the Astros, who improved to a season-best seven games over .500 (62-55).

Boston starter James Paxton limped off the field after straining his right calf while making a quick move to cover first on a grounder in the opening inning.

REDS 4, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Santiago Espinal had two RBIs and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as Cincinnati beat Milwaukee to snap the NL Central-leader's five-game winning streak.

The Reds avoided a sweep and beat the Brewers for just the 12th time in their last 47 meetings. The Brewers won two of three from the Reds this weekend for their ninth straight series victory against them.

Tyler Stephenson homered for Cincinnati, and Joey Ortiz had a two-run shot for Milwaukee.

The Reds broke a 3-all tie against Joe Ross (2-6) in the seventh inning. After Espinal hit a leadoff single and advanced to second when Jonathan India grounded out, Ross walked Elly De La Cruz intentionally and Tyler Stephenson unintentionally to load the bases. Espinal scored on Spencer Steer's sacrifice fly to the left-field warning track.

ROCKIES 9, BRAVES 8

DENVER (AP)—Jake Cave had three RBIs, Charlie Blackmon and Sam Hilliard each had three hits, and Colorado mounted a furious comeback to defeat Atlanta in the finale of a three-game series.

The Rockies earned the victory with a seven-run eighth inning, turning an 8-2 deficit into a 9-8 advantage. It was the largest deficit the Rockies have overcome this season, and the seven runs were tied for the most in an inning by Colorado in 2024.

Entering the day, the Rockies had been 2-14 against the Braves since the start of the 2022 season and had lost nine of their previous 10 games against Atlanta at Coors Field.

Blackmon and Brendan Rodgers each had two RBIs for Colorado, which had lost four of its previous six games.

DIAMONDBACKS 12, PHILLIES 5

PHOENIX (AP)—Merrill Kelly pitched five solid innings in his return from a shoulder injury, Jake McCarthy had three hits and four RBIs, and Arizona stayed hot with a win over Philadelphia.

The D-backs won their eighth straight series, taking three of four from the Phillies. Since July 1, Arizona has a 25-10 record.

Philadelphia has lost three straight and 10 of 14. The Phillies surrendered 23 runs over the past two games.

McCarthy broke open the game in the fifth with a two-out, bases clearing triple down the right-field line that scored three runs and made it 8-2. The outfielder is one of the hottest hitters in the big leagues with a .403 average (25 of 62) over the past three weeks.

TIGERS 5, GIANTS 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dillon Dingler hit his first career home run, Matt Vierling also went deep, and Detroit held on to beat San Francisco to avoid the three-game series sweep.

Colt Keith added two hits and an RBI and three Tigers relievers combined for four shutout innings to back rookie Keider Montero's uneven outing.

Dingler hit a two-run home run in the second inning then doubled and scored in the fifth. Both hits came off Giants starter Hayden Birdsong.

Montero (3-5) gave up four runs on five hits and four walks. Tyler Holton retired four batters and Brenan Hanifee set down five. Will Vest earned his first save of the season when he got Heliot Ramos to strike out looking for the final out.

DODGERS 6, PIRATES 5, 10 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teoscar Hernández drove in three runs, including a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning, as Los Angeles pulled off a victory over Pittsburgh, handing them a season-high seventh consecutive defeat.

The Dodgers had a game-tying RBI double in the 10th from Kiké Hernández, who scored on Teoscar Hernández's single. Kiké Hernández had three hits. Right-hander Evan Phillips (3-0) gave up an unearned run in the 10th but ended up with the win.

Bryan Reynolds gave the Pirates a 5-4 lead in the 10th inning with a one-out RBI single to center.

Dodgers right-hander Tyler Glasnow allowed two runs on five hits over seven innings against his former team. Pittsburgh drafted Glasnow in the fifth round in 2011 and brought him to the major leagues in 2016 before he was traded to the Tampa Bay Rays in 2018.

HANMI

Island Training Solution vice president of Sales Alex Hu, second left, and staff represent ITS in donating a $5,000 cash hole-in-one prize and gas coupons to the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament, scheduled for Aug. 24, 2024, at Coral Ocean Resort. Also pictured are tournament committee chair Das Krishnan, far right, and other members of the tournament committee.

Cash and gas from its from HANMI golf tourney

Island Training Solution is stepping up to the tee with cash and gas for the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 24, 2024, at Coral Ocean Resort on Saipan.

ITS is offering a $5,000 hole-in-one prize on hole No. 3, as well as $200 in gas coupons.

"The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands represents the largest set of private resident/local employers, providing numerous job and career opportunities to our CNMI residents. That fits right in line with Island Training Solutions' mission of developing and credentialing our island residents for the workforce," said ITS owner Jim Arenovski. "They are a huge supporter of our shadowing and internship programs. We support HAMNI's continuing efforts to raise the overall tourist experience, delivering great services and experiences at their respective properties with the intent of creating return visitors and positive word-of-mouth of the CNMI, no matter where those tourists come from. We are proud to help support their fundraising efforts."

Other hole-in-one prizes for the tournament include a 2024 Nissan Sentra from Joeten Motors, a 2024 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, and $10,000 cash from Pacifica Insurance.

"Cash or gas, we're definitely having some winners this month thanks to Island Training Solutions support," said tournament committee chair Das Krishnan. "Hoping for an ace!"

Registration is $180 for non-CNMI residents and $130 for residents. Registration includes green fees and the awards dinner. Optional play is $30 and includes Accurate Drive (hole No. 9) and four chances for Nearest to the Pin (holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17). Showtime is 6am, and the tournament will start at 7am.

This year's awards banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Ataari cultural dinner show. The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants. The tournament follows a blackjack double Peoria format.

Registration forms are downloadable at www.saipanhotels.org, and payment may be made at Coral Ocean Resort or Crowne Plaza Resort front desk. For more information, contact tournament chaur Das Krishnan at das.krishnan@ihg.com. ***(PR)***

COLLEGE

From page 16

much as theirs as it is mine," she said of resetting anew the 100m national record of American Samoa."

She added that she felt a sense of accomplishment more than anything else after completing what she set out to do in the Paris Olympics.

"Once I crossed the finish line, I congratulated the respected athletes within my heat and waited for my time on the main screen. I was in complete shock and overwhelmed with joy. My goal coming into the Olympic Games was to run a personal best and it is the best feeling I have accomplished that."

As for how she celebrated after the 100m event and the new national record, Iakopo did what everyone would do in one of the gastronomic capitals of the world—eat.

"I celebrated my national record with my mom and two god-sisters who flew all the way from the United States to watch me compete in France. We had a dinner and I enjoyed a lot of pastries and pasta."

Iakopo said she feels proud to have represented her father's home islands in the quadrennial event and that it came with the bonus of resetting her own 100m American Samoa national record.

"I am feeling so blessed and honored to be a part of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Competing in the Olympics is a huge achievement in itself but breaking a personal best which sets a new national record for American Samoa [is icing on the cake]."

At Baylor, Iakopo plans to continue her track and field career, and perhaps even restart her interest in bodybuilding,

"I do plan on continuing track and field in college. I will try to go on as a walk on or join an athletics club in Texas...I would also love to continue bodybuilding and maybe do a show. However, I really want to focus on refining my technique and speed in track and field," she said.

Her parents, Stanley and Priscilla, said they're immensely proud of what their daughter was able to accomplish nearly 7,500 miles away from Saipan.

"Our daughter's success in the Olympics is a dream come true for our family. We are beaming with pride knowing that our daughter has made history. Watching our daughter cross the finish line, seeing her name on the scoreboard, and knowing that she's beaten her personal best and set a new national record is a moment we'll treasure forever."

The Iakopos added that their daughter's recent success in sports is a testament that their commitment in supporting her athletic endeavors was well worth it.

"We've invested and sacrificed a lot for our children, so that they have the opportunity in life to succeed. We've spent countless hours, sleepless nights, and endless worries ensuring that they have every chance to thrive. We've sacrificed time, money, and resources to provide them with the best possible training and support."

They also said that their daughter's achievement was not just a testament to her own hard work and determination, but also a reflection of the support and encouragement of her siblings, who have been her biggest cheerleaders every step of the way.

"We're grateful for the bond they share and the love they have for each other. We know that our investment in our children's future has been worth it, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for all of them! We're also deeply grateful to everyone who has supported our daughter, Filomenaleonisa, throughout her 'road to the Olympics' journey. Whether big or small, your support has made a significant impact, and we're thankful for your love and encouragement."

ADEN

From page 16

Olympics, "It was a great experience just to be there. But it also inspired me, thinking about how I was so close to making the team. So, it just inspired me to work even harder to make sure I do everything in my power to be on the team for LA2028 [2028 Los Angeles Olympics]."

On how he felt being Coon's training partner, he said, "It felt super awesome just being a training partner. I was able to watch and observe what these people do leading up to tournaments and how they mentally prepare themselves, or what they do on the mat to prepare their body."

It may be the biggest event in the world, he said, but that "being around like-minded individuals who want the gold, but who also just look at it as another tournament is what elevates everyone to be better."

His main takeaway from watching Olympians compete, he said, was, "is that the guys from the U.S. do great on our feet and we can survive on our feet, but the moment we get down, we don't know what to do. So, a big takeaway I have, especially at heavyweight, is to keep working on all my techniques on my feet so they never know what is coming, but focus extremely hard on par terre defense so it's more difficult for them to turn me."

Coon lost to reigning world champion Amin Mirzazad of Iran in the opening-round bout, 3-1, after being put down on the mat twice. Mirzazad went on to bag bronze, while Cuba's Mijaín López made history after he won his fifth consecutive Olympic gold medal—the only Olympian to ever do so. He went on to symbolically leave his shoes on the mat after his match as a signal of his retirement from the sport.

Wrestler Aden Attao, right, with Adam Coon, the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team's bet in the 130-kg Greco-Roman division of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Attao was asked if he witnessed history take place and he said he did. "I would say that it was a super cool thing to watch that happen; he is most definitely the greatest Greco wrestler of all time, so it was awesome to watch. I was in the arena up a couple rows from the front to watch him win it."

As for how López's departure opens up the U.S. wrestlers' chances at the podium in the next Olympics, he said, "It definitely opens it up for the U.S. in the 130-kg weight class for the future Olympics. All countries are tough and will be difficult to beat, however. Some of the big ones are Turkey, Iran, and Hungary."

Aside from training with Coon and doing his workouts, Attao also found some time to watch the Games' other sports and explore Paris. "I had also just explored Paris by biking around and going to see the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triumphe, and the Cathedral de Notre Dame. So, I just explored the city when I wasn't watching or working out," he said.

He now has two more competitions left in the year. On Sept. 2-8, he is competing in the U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain, then taking on the U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania from Oct. 21 to 27.

He then said, "By that point I will have moved into school at Oregon State, and after U23 Worlds I will be getting ready for the college season, while also training and making sure I am doing everything in [my] power to make that team in LA2028."

Aden is the son of Jesse Attao and Stacey Hammar, and the grandson of Jesus and Ramona Attao of Navy Hill.

NMIBF

From page 16

2026 strategic plans, Ada Gymnasium/Koblerville Gymnasium updates, general membership annual fee, and current board of director nominations and 2026 board of director elections.

Current NMIBF president, James Lee, is not seeking reelection. He has two more years in his post. He said, "Though it will be two years from now, I would like to prepare us for the transition so that we can all work together, especially for some who are interested in taking the lead."

He invites anyone who is interested in partaking in the meeting and said, "The NMIBF is for the islands and whatever we do pretty much dictates the future of our sport."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	49	.588	–
New York	70	49	.588	–
Boston	61	55	.526	7½
Tampa Bay	59	58	.504	10
Toronto	54	64	.458	15½
Central Division				
Cleveland	69	49	.585	–
Minnesota	65	52	.556	3½
Kansas City	65	53	.551	4
Detroit	56	63	.471	13½
Chicago	28	91	.235	41½
West Division				
Houston	62	55	.530	–
Seattle	63	56	.529	–
Texas	55	63	.466	7½
Los Angeles	52	66	.441	10½
Oakland	50	69	.420	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	69	49	.585	–
Atlanta	61	56	.521	7½
New York	61	57	.517	8
Washington	54	65	.454	15½
Miami	44	75	.370	25½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	67	50	.573	–
St. Louis	60	58	.508	7½
Chicago	59	60	.496	9
Cincinnati	57	61	.483	10½
Pittsburgh	56	61	.479	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	69	49	.585	–
Arizona	66	53	.555	3½
San Diego	66	53	.555	3½
San Francisco	61	59	.508	9
Colorado	44	75	.370	25½

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Aden Attao recaps Olympics experience

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

As the curtain closed on the biggest sporting event in the world—the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France—last Sunday, CNMI son and wrestler Aden Attao recapped his experience as the training partner of Adam Coon—the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team's bet in the 130-kg Greco-Roman division.

Attao, who almost made the cut for the Olympic team, placed third in the 130-kg Greco-Roman Challenge Tournament Finals during the 2024 Olympic Wrestling Trials in Pennsylvania last April. He then grabbed the spot as Coon's training partner after the trial's runner-up succumbed to an injury.

This opened up Attao's opportunity to train with Coon and experience and witness first hand his first Olympics—albeit from the sidelines—for now.

The 19-year-old, who has wrestled since he was just 7, said his ultimate goal is to one day reach the Olympic stage as the America's bet in the 130-kg Greco-Roman division.

The Oregon State University State Beaver said of his experience in the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wrestler Aden Attao, left, in a training session during the 2024 Paris Olympics in Paris, France with Adam Coon, the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team's bet in the 130-kg Greco-Roman division.

Next up for Filomenaleonisa: College

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, third from right, in action in the preliminary heat of the 100m event of the 2024 Paris Olympics last Aug. 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Filomenaleonisa Iakopo competes in the 100m event of the 2024 Paris Olympics last Aug. 2.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

After fulfilling her lifelong dream of competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics, Saipan-born and raised Filomenaleonisa Iakopo's next challenge is college where she will be an incoming freshman majoring in Neuroscience at Baylor University.

"I leave Paris on Aug. 12. However, I will not be returning back to Saipan. I will be traveling to Texas to attend Baylor University," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

But the 18-year-old recent Kagman High School graduate didn't leave the French capital without leaving her mark as she reset the national record for the 100m for the country she represented, American Samoa, her father Stanley's home country.

Iakopo ran the century dash in 12.78 last Aug. 2 to reset her own record of 13.00 she set in last year's Micronesian Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Before that, the 13.39 set by Lila Waetin in the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa was untouched for 16 years.

"I dedicate all my success to my family. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have made it this far. Their support and belief in my ability to achieve my dreams have been the backbone of my journey. Through every challenge and wins they have stood by me. This achievement is as

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LEIGH GASES
The NMI Men's National Basketball Team, with president/coach James Lee, fourth from right facing the camera, during a timeout in one of their games in the 10th Micronesian Games in Marjuro, Marshall Islands.

NMIBF meeting this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is holding a general membership meeting this Saturday, Aug. 17, at 11am in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The meeting will discuss the recap of 2021-current NMIBF activities, financial reports, present to

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